

# THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

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## CONTENTS.

ECCLIASTICAL:—	Is Mr. Bright to Envy	
Nonconformist Portrait	Again?.....	117
Gallery. No. IV.—	Address of the Complete	
Oliver Cromwell.....	Suffrage Union, Birming-	
109	ham.....	117
A Picture of a Perpetual	Foreign Intelligence.....	118
Curate.....	The Peace and Anti-Militia	
109	Movement.....	119
Correspondence.....	Election Intelligence.....	120
110	Gleanings.....	121
The Mirror of Parliament..	Births and Deaths.....	122
111	Trade and Commerce.....	122
Postscript.....	Advertisements.....	123
114		
POLITICAL ARTICLES:—		
Summary.....		116
The Ground-swell.....		116
Bleeding and Warm Water		117

## ECCLIASTICAL AFFAIRS.

### NONCONFORMIST PORTRAIT GALLERY.

#### No. IV.—OLIVER CROMWELL.

WE have remarked before, that the reputation of great men is tidal, and a more striking illustration of it is not to be found than in the case of Cromwell. For some time the tide was out—there was no reputation at all: but the tide has turned of late, and, during the last few years, there has been a succession of advances, albeit accompanied by temporary retrocessions, that promise at no distant day his full reward. For a long period it was natural that he should be "the best abused man in all Europe;" how could it be otherwise, when hatred for Cromwell descended from father to son as the same thing precisely as love for the constitution and the church? But never could the appeal be more safely made from Philip drunk to Philip sober—from the falsehood and fury of contiguous times to the better knowledge and temper of a distant age. The cloud is at last disappearing—a correcter acquaintance with the man and his period, and a more liberal and philosophical way of treating history, have already told with fearful effect upon the erroneous judgment—while there are men living (and there will doubtless be more) who deem it almost a point of honour to redeem the fair names of great and good men of former days, remembering that such names have to do with principles, that reputation is the only thing a man can be said to have a property in after he is dead, and that God's rule provides, that "the memory of the just is blessed," and "the name of the wicked shall rot."

It seems clear to us, that little indeed exists for any but one of two vastly different estimates of Cromwell's character and course. There are some men that afford no material for dispute except about a little more or a little less. If the argument on one side fail, they are rather better than before thought to be; if it succeed, they are rather worse. The controversy relates only to the exact motive for particular actions, or the precise measure of particular dispositions, but no doubt exists as to their general character for wisdom or folly, honesty or knavery, truth or falsehood, philanthropy or selfishness. The points debated are of small account, and beyond the possibility of settlement; and friends and foes may safely and wisely regard them as "phenomena whose solution must be left amid the hopeless desiderata of mortal science?" Far otherwise it is with Cromwell. There is no middle course open. The questions affecting him go to the very heart of moral humanity. He was extraordinary at any rate, and the judgment that denies his extraordinary worth must fix upon him extraordinary worthlessness. A decided character is inevitable. The inquiry comes not in a whisper, but a loud tone, and pretence of deafness will not avail; the feature is marked and prominent, and must prove a great disfigurement or grace. He was a great something—a great truth or a great lie—a great hero or a great hound. We believe him to have been, in the main, sincere. But as to this matter of sincerity, two things must be remembered in judging whether it has been possessed by any particular man. It must be considered *what he was*. Different souls have different modes of thought and feeling. No universal and inflexible rule can be applied. What one sees clearly, another cannot see at all; and the fruit of sound conviction in the one could only come of deep duplicity in the other. There may be a squint in the mind as well as in the eye, and some souls can use their left hands best. And circumstances must be understood and weighed. The course which does for quiet times and smooth events is sadly out of place amid sharp contests and strange occurrences. The true metal of worth and wisdom takes different forms as it runs through the curious devices of our worldly moulds. Bear these familiar remarks in mind, apply them honestly and shrewdly to the case of Cromwell, and

we doubt not he will appear essentially true as the light of heaven, however variously reflected or refracted.

Cromwell had attained the age when man is said not only to "suspect," but to "know himself a fool," without, we fancy, having any very clear conviction or suspicion of the matter, before he became much known beyond his private circle and immediate neighbourhood. He had a manly but an odd appearance. Strong in constitution, rough and clownish in manner, with a round and shallow countenance, eyebrows large and shaggy, and nose on which his enemies hung many a joke—a "ruby," "beacon," "comet" nose; looking, says one, as if "he had been christened in a lime-pit, and tanned alive;" not over nice of dress; loose, lumbering, obscure of speech, yet well-knowing what he said and meant, he soon produced an impression of power, and the expectations of many were directed towards him. "That sloven," said Hampden to Lord Digby, who inquired who he was, "whom you see before you hath no ornament in his speech; that sloven, I say, if we should ever come to a breach with the King, which God forbid! in such a case, I say, that sloven will be the greatest man in England." And so it came to pass. Little did Charles imagine, when he issued the order in council to prevent the sailing of the eight ships lying in the Thames, in which were, among others, Hazelrig, Hampden, Pym, and Cromwell, intending to go to America, that he was keeping at home one who would prove a real plague and a virtuous successor!

Little are we inclined to defend Cromwell from all charges brought against him. We readily admit that he cherished some extraordinary impressions, and used some still more extraordinary sayings; that he was by no means free from personal vanity and ambition; that he sometimes exercised a power which he had no business to assume. But at the same time we believe, that the good of his country lay very near his heart; that he perceived its wants with a sagacity that has been seldom exceeded; and that he was, in principles of general policy, very much in advance of the times in which he lived. On the whole, after every reasonable deduction, there is no room to doubt that he filled a singular position with singular ability, and that, had he appeared in the times of ancient revelation, he would have been spoken of in the style in which the call and course of the Israelitish judges are described. He was a great general, a great politician, and a great ruler. Few men have had superior skill in discerning the hearts of others, and in concealing their own. He was led on by circumstances in a course he could not possibly anticipate; and the exigencies of his position prompted him to actions that he could not possibly approve. No man could have done better with his tools and his times; while the actual results of his rule—civil, social, and religious—were such as to compel the conviction that, in a seculer lot, and amid more peaceful scenes, he would have been one of the wisest, mildest, justest governors this world has ever seen. A dark necessity bore him along, often against his better judgment, and to offer a stern resistance would have brought ruin, not only upon himself, but upon purposes that deeply concerned the welfare of the nation. To say that, situated as he was, he erred, is only to say that he was a man; to say that, situated as he was, he erred so little and succeeded in so much, is to say that he was a man alike wonderful in sagacity and strength. In circumstances so complicated and so perplexing, where is the other man that would not have failed entirely?

The worldly and the sceptical will never understand Cromwell or the Commonwealth. An acquaintance with the power and the varieties of the religious sentiment is indispensable to the interpretation of the man and the time. If any account faith to be fanaticism, and fervour madness, they must just give up all hope of knowing aught about the matter. There was a great power of godliness—wild, dreamy, prophetic, but real and genuine. And Cromwell had his full share of it. We cannot doubt that the voices and visions of another world had got supreme possession of his ear and eye—that, whatever seeming obliquities were in his course, whatever temporary discrepancies between his meaning and his manner, his heart was sound in the statutes of God. Highly excitable, susceptible of the most vivid impressions, subject to a "hysterical irritation, which leads indifferently to a fit of laughter, or to a paroxysm of sobbing," and passing from deepest gloom to lightest merriment, yea, "his feats of merriment usually arising from the intensity of serious feeling," religion took strange forms, and forms that might well seem to superficial,

and especially irreligious, minds, insanity at best, a Satanic possession at the worst; yet, as says Carlyle, "Oliver was a Christian man; believed in God, not on Sundays only, but on all days, in all places, and in all cases—a modest, devout man, solemnly intent to make his calling and election sure, to whom in credible dialect the voice of the Highest had spoken." This is the clue to many mysteries of his being and career. God had spoken to him! So, at least, he thought and felt, which was all the same to him. He spoke and conceived of himself as one sent. He was a special messenger, not a common man. The idea was ever present to him, that he acted in God's stead, and was fulfilling God's work. Sometimes it may shock us, sometimes make us smile, but this was his reason for much that was problematic and obscure, gave strength in trials and alarms that would have overborne most other spirits, imparted energy and fortitude in doing right, and, however strange to some, formed his justification when doing wrong. Extraordinary occasions and commissions were not to go by ordinary rules. The theocratic feeling was strong within him. He ruled God's chosen people, had intimations of the Divine will and purpose, enjoyed special protection from above, and was armed with authority to destroy all opposition. Events and impressions supplied the place of prophecies, domestic chaplains were high-priests, battles were judicial processes. Never, since the passing away of the Jewish state, were warriors so addressed, and their successes so interpreted. What a word was that at Dunbar—"Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered!" What an inspiring welcome with which to hail approaching brigades—"The Lord hath delivered them into our hands!" What a comment upon victory—"Faith and prayer have obtained the city!" And what a prayer was that which he offered up for the people the day before his death; "Rather, as Ludlow says, 'becoming a mediator than a warrior.'" "Lord, although I am a wretched and miserable creature, I am in covenant with thee through grace; and I may, I will come unto thee for thy people: thou hast made me a mean instrument to do them some good, and thee service; and many of them have set too high a value upon me, though others wish, and would be glad of, my death. But, Lord, however thou shalt dispose of me, continue and go on to do good for them. Give them consistency of judgment, mutual love, and one heart; and go on to deliver them, and with the work of reformation, and make the name of Christ glorious in the world. Teach those who look too much upon thy instruments to depend more upon thyself. Pardon such as desire to trample upon the dust of a poor worm; for they are thy people too, and pardon the folly of this short prayer, for Jesus Christ, his sake, and give us a good night of it, for thy pleasure."

If this man was mad, there was verily, "a method in his madness;" if he was a hypocrite, we prefer his hypocrisy to the sincerity of many other men!

### A PICTURE OF A PERPETUAL CURATE.

DRAWN BY HIMSELF.

(From the Leeds Times.)

Another remarkable specimen of a successor of the apostles, has just made his appearance as a witness in one of our courts of justice. The case was that of "Miss Smith v. Earl Ferrers," this week tried before the Court of Queen's Bench.

A few weeks ago, in speaking of the bringing-up of the aristocracy, we alluded to the contamination of their morals by the toadies, clerical and others, by whom they were surrounded in youth. Hear now, in proof of this, what the Reverend Edward Francis Arden says of himself:—

I am a clergyman of the Church of England, and was formerly chaplain to Earl Ferrers, and was his companion. I became his chaplain in 1842. I did duty at Stowe and Stanton Harold. I lived in a house at Stowe. Lord Ferrers has only a room or two at Stanton Harold. I suppose he disguised himself only in a bit of fun. I have been disguised myself many a time. I have taken my shirt off and put it outside my coat, and a handkerchief over my hat. I believe I have sallied out in this disguise at night. I don't think I wore it the whole night. My disguises were different. While I have been resting on the sofa, Earl Ferrers has put mustachios on my face. In his dining-room I suppose he might do what he liked with me, and he did. The disguises were merely a bit of a lark of a school boy. When I went out in disguise, I perhaps went a couple of miles. We did nothing. People met us and saw us. I believe they knew us. I had lived as a clergyman in that neighbourhood four or five years before that time. You don't know what my other disguises were, and never shall. It was after dinner. I am sure I don't know whether I was sober. I was sober when I walked two miles in disguise. I mean to say that I was sober when I assumed



disguises. People have their senses about them. I was sober. I was not dismissed as chaplain. After I left as chaplain I went to stay at Chartley Castle. I staid there one night. Lord Ferrers was not there. I staid two nights at the village, at Mr. Ingram's, a surgeon. I was not turned out of his house. At that time, Ingram's daughter and I were not turned out of doors. I afterwards returned to Ingram's, and he told me to keep off his premises. He told me so because he is a fool and a blackguard. I saw his daughter afterwards. I have not been living with Ingram's daughter. I have seen her at the house in which she now lives, at Stoke Farm, near Stowe, in Staffordshire. I have a perpetual curacy in Norfolk. I have never travelled with Miss Ingram, except a ride. I have been at Birmingham and Stafford with her. I have not been driving about the country with her since she left her father's roof. I have done that sort of thing, but not latterly. I have been to Birmingham with her once. I lived at a public house at Stowe, called the Cock. I used to meet my parishioners there. I was there two months at one time. I should think, at a rough guess, I have been there twenty weeks. I beg leave to say I was not intoxicated there. Whether I drank much is another thing. I have drunk with the landlord, sometimes one thing and sometimes another; what I happened to fancy. I was always in my senses there, which I mean when I say I was not intoxicated.

This reverend gentleman's evidence tells its own story. The "shirt under the coat," as a substitute for the surplice,—the "handkerchief over the hat,"—the "mustachios,"—the driving about "the young lady," expelled from her father's house,—the residence for two months and more at the public-house, keeping company with the landlord, and "that sort of thing," contribute to make up a very extraordinary picture of a perpetual curate, though not by any means like that which Chaucer drew—far less that of the apostles, of whom this reverend reveller claims to be the "successor!"

**BREACH OF PROMISE OF MARRIAGE.**—An action has been in progress for several days, before Mr. Justice Wightman and a special jury, at Westminster, for alleged breach of promise of marriage, at the instance of a Miss Smith, who is respectably connected, against the youthful Earl Ferrers. Copious extracts from love letters, said to have been sent to the young lady by the noble Earl, were read in Court. From these it would appear that Earl Ferrers made vehement protestations of attachment to Miss Smith, and that he at last allowed her to fix a day in July or August last for the marriage. Every preparation usual on such occasions was accordingly made, and it was only at the end of July that the young lady was apprised of the fact that the defendant could not marry her, by reading in the papers the announcement of the marriage of the Earl Ferrers to Miss Chichester. The Solicitor-general appeared for the plaintiff, and the Attorney-general for the defendant. The defendant pleaded minority at the time of the alleged promise having been made; and secondly, that he had made no promise, nor even knew the lady. The defence, which was entered upon on Tuesday, was, that the whole correspondence referred to has been fabricated by Miss Smith herself. The Attorney-general read a series of extraordinary anonymous letters, written in a languishing style, and addressed to Earl Ferrers—which letters appeared to have proceeded from the same hand as those said to have been addressed by his lordship to Miss Smith. The similarity of the hand-writing to Miss Smith's was proved by the testimony of that lady's mother. It was established by the evidence of members of the noble defendant's family, that the writer of the letters alleged to have been addressed by him to Miss Smith, committed the most absurd errors in speaking of persons, places, and occurrences. They declared that the letters were not in the hand writing of Earl Ferrers; that he was not in the practice of writing on scraps of paper; they contained many mistakes as to names and incidents; it was proved, also, that Earl Ferrers was in another part of the country on the day that the little girl swore she saw him in her father's house for the second time; and that Mr. Devereux Shirley was in Scotland at the time of the alleged interview at Ashby. On Wednesday, the Solicitor-general stated, that as he was not in a position to meet or explain the letters adduced for the defence, he should withdraw the case, and allow the plaintiff to be nonsuited. The Attorney-general and the Court approved of this course. The letters produced on both sides were impounded, also the two handkerchiefs which Earl Ferrers had received from his heart-sick correspondent, with a view to proceedings against Miss Smith, and perhaps others, for conspiracy.

**EDUCATION IN THE MANUFACTURING DISTRICTS.**—In the district around Ashton and Oldham where, in October, 1842, there was neither a national school, nor a British school, nor any other public day-school of that kind, except the Roman Catholic school at Stalybridge, and a Church school for girls at Hey chapel, there are now twenty such schools, attended by 3,649 children. The British school at Ashton was established in January 1844. A fund of about £3,000 was subscribed by the congregation of the Albion-street Independent chapel, £200 of which was by operatives. Mr. Sutcliffe showed me the list of subscribers, and I was so struck with the munificence of the sums, that I asked for a copy of the list, in order that I might have the gratification of making it known, that a sum of not less than £1,800 has been subscribed by nine individuals, proprietors of cotton-mills in Ashton and the neighbourhood, including a part subscribed by members of their respective families. The room in which the school meets at present is only temporary, and as soon as they can obtain a site for which they are in treaty, they are to build a school for 500 boys, 300 girls, and 200 infants. —Mr. Horner's Factory Report.

**THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS AND THE OREGON QUESTION.**—The Society of Friends have addressed Sir Robert Peel on the dispute existing between this country and the United States of America with respect to the Oregon territory. The address was presented to Sir Robert Peel, and the Earl of Aberdeen, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, by a deputation of eight members of the Society of Friends, on the 14th inst. It strongly deprecates war, would rather suffer wrong than adopt the tremendous alternative of plunging the two countries into war, and recommends arbitration.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### A SUSTENTATION FUND.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—You will remember, that in the months of Nov. and Dec. last year, you inserted some letters in the *Nonconformist*, written by "Observer" and myself, on the subject of a Sustentation Fund for poorly-remunerated ministers in Dissenting chapels. The subject, though one of pressing importance, was allowed to drop—on my part, because there was nothing in "Observer's" last letter requiring, in my judgment, a reply. "Simplex," and, if I remember rightly, one or two others also alluded to it; and probably I should not again have asked room in your pages to refer to this matter were it not for two facts. The first is a paragraph in your last number, from your American correspondent, in which he says, that the practical working of the arrangements made amongst the American churches, for supplying the deficiency to the class of pastors in question, is "a mighty central money power, to screw all feeble churches and dependent ministers out of their individual freedom and manhood into a spaniel-subservency to the opinions, interests, and policy of the central body or committee." This, you will remember, is the result I predicted as likely to ensue from the incorporation of any such system with English Congregationalism. Your American correspondent obviously alludes to our correspondence, and earnestly deprecates the first step in a movement which, if carried out, may compromise the individual independence of the ministry and the churches. Sir, our vitality, and consequently our power of usefulness, must not be sacrificed for any price. I believe that one of the designs of Providence, in calling into being the Independent churches of England, was, that they might be aggressive on the strongholds of corruption; and I also believe, consequently, that those members or ministers of our churches who think otherwise, have not read their commission aright. Now, the feeling of obligation leads to a desire to please the donor, or agent. The beneficiary studies to gratify the benefactor. Remembering, then, our commission on the one hand, and this characteristic of the human mind on the other, we may reasonably infer that some of our most active men would have their activity checked if receiving aid from a supplementary fund through the medium of a committee of investigation, comprising, as is probable, a majority of the "aristocracy of Dissent." Glad and gratified should I be to see the sum of £10,000 raised for the purpose in question. I believe it would greatly facilitate the usefulness, and lessen the mental sorrows, of many devoted servants of Christ. But the "working" of the thing is that which I fear. Too much care could not be taken in the formation of a board or committee for this purpose.

My second reason for writing on this matter now, arises from the near approach of the time when the Congregational Union will meet. It is not improbable the subject may be noticed there. Nothing would give me greater satisfaction than to hear Dr. Campbell giving his judgment on it. Dr. Campbell is too great a man to suffer anything having the appearance of flattery, and I am not in the habit of offering it to any one. But I must say, that his benevolence, his courage, his clear-headedness, and his extraordinary business habits, point him out as the man to do this thing well, if it is to be done at all. Something ought to be done to allay what I must call the justifiable discontent, and the unmerited privations, which are found in many quarters. It is in the power of our wealthy churches to give the gospel to every village in England, without compromising the rational and scriptural independency of any church, or interfering with the mental freedom of any man. Trusting that your correspondents will calmly examine the whole subject.

I am, &c.,

A WATCHER OF SIGNS.

### CONGREGATIONAL CENTRALISATION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I think your correspondent, "H. D. S.," might have waited for something more definite than a mere flying rumour, before venturing upon the wholesale charge against the committees of the metropolitan independent colleges, contained in his letter to you of the 11th inst. He accuses "some, if not all," of them, of having compromised their distinctive principles, and the rights and interests of the tutors and students, and imperilled the faithful advocacy of those principles on the part of the rising ministry, by transferring the office of introducing students to vacant churches, from themselves (the committees of the several colleges) to the committee of the Congregational Union.

If "H. D. S." be himself an Independent, he ought to be aware that the duties of the college committees do not extend to any such office; especially, they have nothing to do with arrangements of this kind.

Your readers may depend upon it that, had the scheme referred to been really broached, the parties more immediately concerned would have heard something about it, and most assuredly would not silently have allowed the yoke to be adjusted round their necks.

I cannot learn, and I do not believe, that this interference is meditated by the committee of the union, or that the committee of any college are disposed to tolerate anything of the kind.

As regards Homerton College, at all events, I have authority for saying that, so far from any such proposition having been entertained by the committee or tutors, they had not even heard of it until the publication of your correspondent's letter.

Yours, most respectfully,

A HOMERTON STUDENT.

Feb. 24, 1846.

### THE EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE.

To the Rev. W. Bevan, Rev. G. Osborne, and Charles Robertson, Esq., District Secretaries of the Evangelical Alliance.

DEAR SIRS,—A few months since, I received a circular from you, in which you did me the honour to request that I would allow my name to be added to the provisional committee of the Evangelical Alliance, to act for the northern counties. My anxiety to promote Christian union amongst various religious denominations induced me to overcome certain scruples which I felt in reference to the constitution of the proposed Alliance, and to assent to the request which you were good enough to make. Recent events have, however, thoroughly convinced me of the soundness of my original objections, as well as increased their force. I do not see how the Alliance can adopt any practical measures without offence to some of its members, whilst I should esteem the mere exhibition of Christian union, on special occasions, as very dearly purchased by the suppression of individual convictions of truth. Such, however, there is too much reason to believe, is the wish of some of the leading members of the Alliance, who appear to require that men shall all seem to think alike, in order that they may love each other,

whilst, in fact, the charity most worth cultivating is that which bears with others in the midst of expressed differences of opinion.

The practical difficulty in the way of Christian union appears to me to be the existence of an ecclesiastical establishment. This, indeed, is shown by the fact that, while all Dissenting denominations readily unite with each other, and really are bound together in Christian sympathy, the members of the endowed sect, with few laudable exceptions, stand aloof, and oppose the movement, because it recognises "schismatics" from their church as worthy of Christian communion. With this fact before me I am led to the conclusion, that the best means of promoting a real honest alliance amongst all Christians, is to exert ourselves to abolish that state influence which binds down pious Episcopalians with stringent restrictions, and fills the high places of their church with worldly men who have no interest in the progress of Christian charity, and therefore frown upon any "alliance" for its promotion.

Careful consideration, also, has satisfied me that there are many objections against connecting creed with the projected Alliance. I will not venture to trespass upon your attention with the arguments which suggest themselves to my mind, but will merely observe, that I think forms of creed, adopted by churches or other bodies of men, have always tended to prevent the free exercise of "private judgment in the interpretation of Holy Scripture" (the right of which you recognise), and, as a result, have led to the corruption of Christian sects, and the decay of religion.

Nor can I hesitate to express my opinion, that the creed you have adopted would exclude men in whose piety I have the greatest confidence, and with whom I should be happy to join in Christian "alliance" for any good object. If I am correct in this, your requirements, by excluding certain Christians, can scarcely be consistent with the principles of true Christian union.

I have thus ventured to lay before you some of my reasons for requesting you to erase my name from the list of the committee for this district, and with the expression of my best regard towards yourselves personally,

I am, dear sirs, your very faithful servant,

PETER RYLANDS.

Warrington, Feb. 16, 1846.

**HOURS OF FACTORY LABOUR.**—Yesterday (Tuesday) another meeting of master cotton-spinners was to be held, to take into consideration whether or not it is desirable to promote the working of factory hands for eleven hours daily, by voluntary arrangement between the masters and their workpeople.

**THE COUNCIL OF THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS** are about to apply to the Government for a supplemental charter, to enable an addition to be made to the list of fellows from among their members, without requiring them to submit to what they consider the degradation of a re-examination in their adult years.—*Times*.

**CIVIL WAR IN THE CITY.**—On Saturday morning, Mr. Dadd, superintendent of the Watermen's Steam Packet Company, and Edmund Mackay, and John Ireland, two of the crew of the Waterman, No. 5, were liberated from Newgate, after an incarceration of thirteen days. They were convicted, on the 9th instant, for the part they took in resisting the water bailiffs, City police, and others, acting under the authority of the Lord Mayor, who removed by force the barges forming the St. Paul's-wharf Pier. They were entertained at a public breakfast, at the offices of the City Steam-packet Company, in Earl-street, Blackfriars, by a number of gentlemen connected with the trade and navigation of the river.

Lord Clancarty is mentioned as a convert to the Ministerial policy.

**NEW MOVE OF THE SCOTCH PROTECTIONISTS.**—The Lothian Protectionists demand, with the abolition of the corn-laws, the abrogation of the law of entail. This procedure must startle our hot-headed, dogged, Tory corn lords. Abolish the law of entail!—one of the intents laid at the door of that "infernal League." That this should proceed from so respectable a quarter fills us with amazement! Is this, too, a portion of the new Conservative creed? Verily we are fallen on strange days! We see the most radical schemes emanating from the Tories!—*Oxford Chronicle*.

**CORN-LAW PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS.**—We understand that the labourers of Hampshire are about to follow the examples of their brethren at Goatsacre and Bremhill, and make the public acquainted with the great "benefits" they have derived from agricultural protection, and with their state and condition under the existing corn-law. Their purpose meeting on Monday evening, at Waltham Chase, when no doubt another black catalogue of misery and woe will be published, attributable to the operation of the restrictive corn-laws.—*Hants Independent*.

Mr. VILLIERS has given notice of his intention to move, in the committee of the House on the Ministerial corn bill, an AMENDMENT for making total repeal of the corn-law IMMEDIATE.—*League*.

A NEW ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL was opened at Bridgewater, on Tuesday last. The attendance was great, Protestants vying as eagerly as Catholics in endeavouring to obtain admission—Dissenters and Churchmen, drawn by one common curiosity, mingled together.—*Bath Journal*.

**INDIAN CORN BREAD.**—On Saturday morning, we learn from the *Glasgow Saturday Post*, Mr. Cowdin, United States' consul in that town, delivered a lecture to a large party of citizens on the value of Indian corn as an article of food. Specimens of two forms of bread were produced, hot from the oven of Mr. Forrester. The first was a loaf baked from three pounds of corn-meal, and weighing, when it came from the oven, 3lb. 6oz. The other was what is commonly called in America a "Johnny cake." The former was a palatable, solid article, but seemed to be considered by the company rather damp and heavy. The Johnny cake was much lighter, and was generally greatly preferred to the other, and pronounced an excellent species of bread. A specimen of Indian corn pudding was also exhibited. It is, we believe, prepared with molasses, and is extremely palatable.

Lord Henry Lennox has resigned the appointment which he held of precis-writer in the Foreign Office.

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT have determined on the route to India via Trieste.—*Globe*.



**REMARKABLE CASE OF SONNAMBULISM.**—A respectable farmer, residing near Loughborough, in Leicestershire, some time ago had a waggoner in his employ, who was addicted to walking in his sleep. A part of this man's business was, every Tuesday morning, to take hay, corn, or other produce, to Melton Mowbray market, and so accustomed was he to this journey, that he often said he thought he could find his way blindfold, though the distance was several miles; this the following facts, to some extent, illustrate:—Early in the spring, at about the hour of midnight, this man was observed to get up, dress himself, light his lantern, unlock the house door, pass over the straw-yard to the stables, harness the team of four horses to the waggon, which had been overnight laden with hay, set open the yard gate which led into the road, and having spoken to his horses, and whistled to his dog, proceeded on his journey. Having opened and passed through five or six gates, he came to a part of the road which was in a very bad condition, and which the heavy rain of the preceding afternoon, had left in a flooded state. Unmindful or unconscious of the somewhat dangerous position he was about to place himself in, he, after hesitating scarcely a moment, walked leisurely into it, at the time cracking his whip, and urging on the team. He had reached about half way—some 200 yards, perhaps—up this road, when, his foot slipping, he fell all his length in the midst of the water, in which, for an instant, he was completely immersed. This thorough ducking awoke him, and, after ascertaining, from a moment's consideration, his whereabouts, he hastened to the nearest public-house, dried his clothes, and reached Melton about the usual time.

**CUBAN SUGARS.**—The *Daily News* states that the Spanish Minister has accepted Lord Aberdeen's interpretation of "the most favoured nation" clause in the Spanish treaty. This puts an end to the misunderstanding between the two Cabinets on the subject of the duties on sugar from Cuba.

**SIR R. PEEL'S HEALTH.**—We are authorised to contradict, in the most explicit manner, the reports which have been for some time current as to the health of Sir R. Peel. It has been said that the right honourable baronet has of late been frequently cupped. He has not once had occasion to undergo this operation during the present session, and his health, notwithstanding the great fatigue which he has had to undergo, has much improved since the attack of gout which he experienced in November last. In fact, Sir R. Peel has not required any medical treatment for many weeks, and is at present in the enjoyment of his ordinary excellent health.—*Times*.

**NEWS FROM THE NIGER.**—A passenger by the Funchall, in a letter dated Cork, January 16, reports that the merchant steamer *Ethiopia* had come down the river after a very successful expedition, and that Dr. King and the master, the only white men on board, were quite well.

**A WORD CONCERNING H. B.**—The man who pierces the scarcely penetrable dullness of the corn-law debates with one gleam of fun, or strikes from their density one spark of amusement, deserves well of his country. H. B. has achieved this: each phase which the interminable question has recently presented, each turn it has taken, has afforded the most classical of graphic caricatures a pleasant idea. An embodiment of the eight hundred and fifty-fourth of H. B.'s diverting ideas now lies before us, being a political application of that passage in the history of "Jack the Giant Killer," in which he bloweth the magic horn and causeth the giant's castle to fly away like smoke. Need we say who "Jack" is? The small hero standeth at the gate in a determined attitude: the horn through which he proclaims "free-trade" is a rolled-up edition of the celebrated "Letter to the Electors of London." The castle, which is labelled "Conservatism and Protection," is tumbling to pieces rapidly; and, rising from its ruins, is the magician, whom the story tells us was carried off in a whirlwind, and who, despite his ample robes and sugar-loaf, bears an unmistakable resemblance to the Premier. In the background is dimly shadowed the giant:—

"Horrendum monstrum, ingens, informe;"

but not *lumen ademptum*, for he is uncommonly wide-awake, staring at the havoc, and (in due keeping with the story) biting his thumb. The next sketch is the Premier doing penance in a white sheet, and holding forth—not orally, as is his wont, but manually—the sliding-scale, in the form of a huge candle. A couple of Leaguers look on, one of whom expresses a fear that, though his taper is warranted to burn for three years, it will perhaps burn his fingers when it is on the eve of going out. No. 856 is a classical cartoon of those modern old Trojans, the corn-law dukes, all prostrate before Dido (an "illustrious personage"), praying for protection. The Ministry look on with dignified surprise at their impudence. The classical costumes tell with much comic force. "The Confessional," No. 857, reveals Mr. Cobden in cowl and gown, seated in that sentry-box of the church militant—a confessional, and shriving Sir Robert Peel: the ex-Jack the Giant Killer kneels on the other side, attentively conning his lesson from a missal, labelled "the League," and waiting his turn for shrift. The figure of the Premier on his knees, with his face hidden, is the perfection of similitude. We cannot conclude this hasty notice without returning our personal thanks to H. B. for four of the most hearty, wholesome laughs we have enjoyed since the threadbare Parliamentary discussions on the corn-law debates set in with such intense severity. The fire of interest burnt out with Peel's reply on Monday night, and we place our cachinatory benefactor's sketches in the portfolio with a longing sigh for the arrival of the long-protracted division.—*Daily News*.

**EXTENSIVE FIRE.**—Shortly before three o'clock, on Monday morning, a fire occurred at the extensive sugar refining house belonging to Messrs. Grant and Baldwin, 17, St. George's-place, Park-road, St. George's-in-the-East, the whole of which, together with the valuable stock, in all worth upwards of 20,000, was entirely consumed. Though workmen were employed in the premises up to a late hour, there is happily no truth in the report that life has been sacrificed. The building is fully insured.

## THE MIRROR OF PARLIAMENT.

THE CORN-LAW DEBATE.

EIGHTH DAY.

The adjourned debate on the question that the House do now resolve itself into a committee of the whole House on the Customs and Corn Importation Acts was, on Thursday, commenced by

Lord DUNCAN, who said, it was matter of exultation to him that the arguments of the Free-traders, which had long been triumphant in the country, were at length triumphant in the Cabinet, and had every prospect of being soon triumphant in that House. He related the following anecdote in proof of the reliance to be placed upon Mr. Miles's statistics:—

He remembered the prophecies of the honourable member for Somerset (Mr. Miles) in 1842. That honourable gentleman said that New Orleans was situated in a territory spread over 460,000 square miles, and its inhabitants were prepared to pour into this country flour, corn, beasts, and pork. He (Lord Duncan) happened at that time to be in Warwickshire, and he met a gentleman, a friend of his, a great grazier in that county, riding along at a fearful rate [a laugh]. He asked his friend why he rode at such a pace? "Oh, I am going to sell my beasts, for Peel and the rest of you have ruined us all [renewed laughter]. Have you read," he continued, "Mr. Miles's speech? He is the great orator that we agriculturists always believe in, and he tells us that 5,500,000 people are building a sort of ark, in which pigs, cattle, and corn are to be brought over to Bristol" [much laughter]. Now, I have lately seen my agricultural friend, and having asked him, "Have you not seen what your friend Mr. Miles says of Tamboff?" "Ah," said he, "I was gammoned before by that gentleman, and I don't mean to be gammoned again" [renewed laughter].

Mr. Alderman THOMPSON contended, that it was a delusion to maintain that wages could be maintained at their present rate if the price of food were diminished, as the advocates of the repeal of the corn-laws maintained that it would be by that measure. Sir Robert Peel had proposed his present changes in our commercial policy, because they would improve the moral and social condition of the labouring classes; but he was convinced that if those changes injured agriculture, as he was certain that they would do, they would turn the scale of national comfort and prosperity quite the other way. If a free-trade in corn were made the law of the land, further changes must follow, and amongst the earliest must be the abrogation of our colonial system, and the repeal of the navigation laws. In the course of his speech Sir R. Peel reminded the hon. member that he, in common with the merchants of London, in 1820 had petitioned for perfect freedom of trade.

Sir W. MOLESWORTH gave his cordial support to the measure of Government, and contended that the labourer, the farmer, and the landlord, would be permanently benefited by the introduction of a free trade in corn. He believed that the value of land had been increasing for some years past, and would go on increasing for some years to come, in consequence of the accumulating capital of the manufacturing classes.

Mr. BENNETT (Wilts), who said that perhaps he spoke for the last time (on account of his advanced age and growing infirmities), prophesied that under free-trade great capitalist farmers would crush the little farmers, just as the great have crushed the little manufacturers.

Mr. H. BERKELEY retaliated the charge of inconsistency which Mr. P. Miles had brought against the free-trade converts on his own side of the house—against the hon. member himself, as evinced in his conduct towards his constituency. He (Mr. Berkeley) should vote for the proposal of Government.

Mr. TOLLEMACHE spoke against the Ministerial measure.

Mr. T. DUNCOMBE animadverted upon the conduct of the Protectionist party, in vituperating the Government while they refrained from giving effect to their censures on a vote of want of confidence:—

Why not come forward at once with a vote of want of confidence in the Ministry, a vote of censure upon the Treasury bench. [Hear, hear! and an hon. member, "Will you support us?"] Such a course would be manly, intelligible, and parliamentary; for hon. gentlemen opposite took that course in 1841 on the address. It was proposed to meddle with exactly the same questions as now, namely, the commercial interests of the country; and what was the amendment then moved and carried? That a Government which meddled with such questions as corn and commerce ought to have the confidence of that House [hear, hear].

Why did not hon. gentlemen opposite do the same thing now?

Sir J. TYRELL.—Because you would not support us [laughter].

Mr. DUNCOMBE: I won't support you? How do you know I would not support you [laughter]? I never told you I should or I should not, and what right have you to assume that I should not [laughter]? Why not try it like honest men, and leave the country to judge between us?

Sir J. TYRELL: I meant that your party would not support us [hear, hear].

Mr. DUNCOMBE: I have no party but that of the country [cheers and laughter]. The fact was, that hon. gentlemen opposite dare not face the opinion of the country [cheers]. But what did they do? They went on casting all sorts of abuse and obloquy on the Government; they charged them with perfidy and treason ["Hear, hear," from Colonel Sibthorpe]. Treason to whom [hear, hear]? What would they have had the right hon. baronet do under the circumstances—the peculiar circumstances in which he was placed in November last? The right hon. baronet had told the House, he had explained to them—in the estimation of the public honourably to himself—the course he had thought proper to pursue on that occasion [cheers]. He resigned.

Were hon. gentlemen opposite prepared to take it [hear]? Mr. Gladstone, in his address to the electors of Newark, told them that those who were against the relaxation of protection were not prepared to form a Government [hear]. The noble lord the member for London was empowered to form an administration; but he failed, for some reason or other [a laugh]. You (the Protectionists) wanted courage; the Whigs wanted concord; what was the right hon. baronet to do? They would, of course, admit that there must be some Government in the country. If it was to be done, how was it to be done, except in the way that the right hon. baronet did it [hear]. He was prepared, even if there had been no one to follow him, so to act that her Majesty should be able to meet her Parliament

[cheers]. He (Mr. Duncombe) wished the noble lord had done the same ["Hear, hear," from Mr. Gisborne and other hon. members on the Opposition side]. He wished the noble lord had come to that House, if even he had had only ten men to follow him. Public opinion would have carried him through, as it would the right hon. baronet at the head of the Government [cheers]. Treason! to whom? To the Queen? To the people? To his own honour? No! Treason, perhaps, to Toryism [a laugh]! But, what did that mean? Why, that he has preferred the interests of a great nation to the ignorant prejudices of a party [cheers and laughter]. There was but one treason of which the right hon. baronet could now be guilty; that was, treason to the people and the country, by vacillating in the course he had marked out for himself [cheers]. That was the only treason of which the right hon. baronet could now be guilty [cheers].

The fact was, the Protectionists dared not face opinion in the country. At Westminster they dared not produce a candidate, though he might have stood on the hustings in Covent-garden up to his knees in native cabbages. He referred to the effects of the measure upon the tenant-farmers and clergy:—

They were told, however, that the tenants-at-will and the clergy were up in arms, and the hon. baronet the member for the University of Oxford told them that the clergy and the church were dreadfully alarmed. He said that the tithe interest was not taken care of in the measure, and that the interest of the church was not taken care of [hear, hear]. But he had not told them why. He did not give any reason why those interests were in danger [hear]. It was singular that, whenever anything was going to be done for the good of the people, some gentlemen always got up in that House, and cried out, "You don't remember the church!" [laughter]. Why, the clergy were no more necessarily associated with tithe than the church meant religion [hear, and oh!]. Why? Because one-half of the church belonged to lay proprietors [hear, hear]. Still it was said that the clergy were up in arms against the measure [hear, hear]. As for the tenant-farmers, he did not think they cared a straw about it; if they could vote by ballot they would vote for the measure ["Hear," from Sir R. Peel, and cheers]. But under the £50 tenant-at-will clause they were compelled to vote at the will of their landlords [cheers]. Talking of tithe, he had an authority on the subject which he thought would dispense with some of the alarm which was said to exist among the clergy on that account. He contended that the titheowner, whether clerical or lay, had no right to complain, and the authority on which he said this was one to which the hon. baronet (Sir R. Inglis) would, he was sure, pay the greatest attention. It was a charge of the Bishop of Rochester in 1837, immediately after the Tithe Commutation Bill passed.

Mr. Duncombe warned Sir Robert Peel, however, of a danger to one part of his scheme: it is already rumoured, that after the corn-law is disposed of, the manufacturers mean to oppose the alteration in the law of settlement. Let him look to that, or the entire measure would be made comparatively worthless.

Sir THOMAS ACLAND, looking forward to the carrying of the measure, promised that he would do his best to make the agriculturists keep up their hearts: the best way to take advantage of a good law, such as that of 1842, is to improve estates as much as possible; that is no less the best way to meet a bad law. If the measure were fairly carried, he would offer no factious opposition—he would not worry the measure. Sir Robert Peel, however, would know better than to push it if he obtained no more than a bare majority. [As the honourable gentleman rose to take Mr. Duncombe to task for calling the agriculturists "an ignorant and bigoted set," and flourished a big stick about the whole time, we really thought (says the *Chronicle*) he was going to proceed to personal violence against the member for Finsbury.]

Lord A. PAGET and Mr. B. BARING spoke briefly in favour of the measure.

The debate was then again adjourned.

NINTH DAY.

The adjourned debate was resumed by

Mr. CUMMING BRUCE, who reiterated the usual arguments against the abolition of protection.

Mr. POULETT SCROPE urged at length the absurdity of denying to a skillful and industrious population an ample supply of the first necessities of life. He proceeded to show, that the system of the Protectionists, if fairly carried out, must annihilate our foreign trade, and by consequence our home trade, and that ruin and confusion must be the result of such a measure. Let them, at least, be consistent; let Mr. Busfield Ferrand, for example, come down to the House dressed in skins; he should live by the chase alone, knocking down his prey with a club, or rather his fists (for a club is an instrument for shortening labour); he should tear it with his teeth alone, and grub up the earth for roots with his finger nails.

Mr. NEWDEGATE censured the policy of the Government both on currency and corn, as detrimental to all the interests of the country. To buy in the cheapest and sell in the dearest market was a good maxim for trade, but not a good one for Government, inasmuch as Government had other objects to which it ought to look besides the accumulation of capital. The peculiar burdens on agriculture he estimated at twelve millions sterling annually, which included tithes, a charge essentially a peculiar burden. He censured the somewhat haughty and dictatorial tone which Sir R. Peel had of late assumed towards the independent members of that House. Until he submitted his change of opinion to the approval or disapproval of the public by a constitutional appeal to the people, he (Mr. Newdegate) should consider him, not the Minister of the Sovereign or the people's choice, but the Minister of their necessity.

Mr. BARKLY vindicated the rules of political economy, as being no less susceptible of proof than any proposition in Euclid; only that exact science must be applied cautiously, precisely as Sir Robert Peel is applying it.

Mr. BENNETT (the maiden member for Suffolk) was greatly alarmed, which his inaudible voice attested; and was deeply impressed with the virtues and good fellowship of country gentlemen, with whom honourable gentlemen opposite were not sufficiently acquainted.

Mr. MUNTZ—an exception to the dull level line of debate—had done his best to keep Sir Robert Peel out of power, but now he was very glad to see him there: he was very happy to see what the Premier was doing—thought his course quite wrong, but would do his best



to carry out his views: he advocated free trade, but would protect all "native industry." These paradoxical eccentricities, coming pretty thick upon the House, and delivered with all Mr. Muntz's gigantic voice, amused the honourable assembly consumedly. Mr. Muntz, however, denied that he ever spoke one way and voted another. But, in brief, we venture to guess his meaning to be this—that free trade, especially in corn, is very desirable, but that a change in currency is still more so; and, while it is desirable to lower the price of bread, it is still more essential to see that wages be not lowered. He remarked, that the people were in great doubt and uncertainty as to what course Sir Robert Peel would take on other subjects; all exclaim, "What next?" He fully expected another change—to hear Sir Robert manfully declare that for forty years he had been all wrong about the currency, and that he was "unable to resist the experience of the last two years" [great laughter]! Thus speaking, Mr. Muntz is to give the Minister his vote.

Mr. D'ISRAELI said that, whatever other doubts had been expressed upon other points in the course of this debate, there had been none as to whether her Majesty's Ministers had changed their opinions. Sir R. Peel had complained that a great part of the present discussion had been wasted on the subject of party. He (Mr. D'Israeli) considered party as public opinion embodied, and protested against Sir R. Peel's conduct, not because he had deferred too much to party or public opinion, but because he had outraged it by the abandonment of his past principles, and by the flagrant scandal of carrying a measure which the majority of his Cabinet resisted. Sir Robert had then indicated what, in his opinion, ought to be the proper subject of discussion in the House, and had called upon it to meet an emergency, and to construct a system. Now, could there be a stronger contrast than between a system which was permanent, and an emergency which must be precipitate? We had now a protection Cabinet and a free-trade Premier; and perhaps some of the Protectionists in that Cabinet would explain to the House what were the reasons which induced them to come to the conclusion that the present system of corn-laws ought to cease. Mr. D'Israeli then proceeded to combat Sir Robert Peel's arguments. He first noticed the Premier's declaration, that in consequence of the removal of prohibitory and the relaxation of protective duties, accompanied by the regulations of his tariff, in 1841, there had been a great and simultaneous increase of exports and imports. This Mr. D'Israeli attributed principally to the increase of our colonial trade. He then proceeded to notice and controvert the argument which Sir R. Peel had drawn from the present condition of the silk trade in favour of free-trade. He asserted, that after twenty years of relaxation, we did not now import more pounds of silk than we did in the last year of protection. It was true Sir Robert Peel maintained that the importation had risen from 3,000,000 to 6,000,000 pounds; but even, if that were correct, all the increase was not to be attributed to commercial regulations, but some part of it at least must be assigned to the industry and enterprise of Englishmen. He admitted the fact which Sir R. Peel had laboured so effectually to establish in his last speech; namely, "that, for thirty years, we had relaxed protection, and that the country was flourishing." That was his (Mr. D'Israeli's) case. The country was flourishing, because you had given it a just, judicious, and moderate protection. Could Sir R. Peel fight hostile tariffs with free imports? If so,

That is the question I wish to ask him [Protectionist cheers, and "Hear, hear."] "Hear, hear!" from the disciples of the school of Manchester! A most consistent cheer. They have always maintained that cause. If their principles are right, as they believe, and as I believe not, I can easily understand their conclusions are right. At any rate, they are consistent. They believe they could fight hostile tariffs with free imports, and they say, very justly, "Let us take care of our imports, and the rest will take care of themselves." But is that the opinion of the right honourable gentleman? If that is the conviction of the right honourable gentleman, why all these elegies over defunct diplomatic negotiations with reference to commercial tariffs? Why does the right honourable gentleman speak with so much pity, and also with so much pique, upon the question of diplomatic intercourse on the subject of relaxations in commerce? If he believes he can fight hostile tariffs with free imports—I say, if he really believes that—he need not trouble himself about commercial treaties [cheers]; but if the right honourable gentleman does not believe it, if he has not the convictions of the school of Manchester, then he is not justified in this measure [cheers].

He (Mr. D'Israeli) could assert, from his personal knowledge of the leading men in France, and from his perusal of the works of German writers on statistics, that Sir R. Peel was much mistaken as to the feelings of France and Prussia; and in America it was notorious, that ever since the question of free-trade had been agitated in England, the manufacturers of the United States had become animated with a warlike spirit against us, from a conviction that war was the only way by which they could maintain protection for their manufactures:—

Let me press this upon the attention of the House [hear, hear]. Remember the arguments used in favour of free imports, in favour of altering our tariff to the American market. It has always been considered a peace measure; but remember what things may happen from that quarter if we relax our protection. In exact proportion as you consult, if you can consult, the western community, you will raise the disaffection of the great northern states, which are the states upon the coast, and the most powerful in the American union [hear, hear].

With regard to France, he said:—

Now I say, without shrinking, and I declare most solemnly, it is my conviction, and I speak from as much knowledge of the public men of France as generally falls to the experience of any individual, not a minister—that with the exception of an occasional minister, there is not any interest, of any individual, in France not in favour of a high restrictive policy [cheers from the Protectionists]. There is not one man in France who fears it is now too late, to gain any reparation in the commercial system of France. It is by no means a condition of the French Cabinet to do anything with regard to diplomacy. With regard to isolated points, and particularly with regard to the manufactures of Sheffield, which have been done without it; but everything in France is a matter of diplomatic *quid pro quo*.

Noticing the speech of Mr. S. Herbert, which he denounced as a genuine League speech, he detected an inconsistency between that gentleman's argument, and those of the Home Secretary:—

But the right honourable gentleman said the other evening, that the fallacy of cheap bread was entirely discarded by all parties. So said the right honourable gentleman the Secretary-at-War; but the right honourable gentleman the Secretary for the Home Department, on the following night, in answer to a very proper appeal from the honourable member for Stamford, said, unless the question before the House was one of cheap and abundant food for the people, there was really no question at all [cheers from the Protectionists]. Then, how reconcile that with what the right honourable gentleman the Secretary-at-War said? You may not reconcile them; but I draw a moral, and I say that I am not surprised at their distracted councils when their arguments are so discordant.

He maintained, that in a settled market prices will fall in proportion to the demand:—

Certainly, now, when we have a very limited supply, a sudden demand will immediately affect the price; but when we have a settled market, exactly in proportion to your demand, prices will fall [ironical cheers from the Opposition]. It is the invariable result [renewed ironical cheers from the Opposition]. Nothing pleases me more than that chorus of sneers from the school of Manchester. But now I will prove it to you. Take the article of tea. You get tea from one country only. Your demand has increased every year, and year after year the price has fallen [cheers]. Take again cotton; there is a greater analogy between cotton and corn, perhaps, than between tea and corn; for there were nearly the same discussions with regard to cotton as have taken place relative to corn. It was said, the more Manchester demanded cotton, the greater would be the price in the United States, and it was proved, in a pamphlet written by a late distinguished member of Congress, that under no circumstances could the price of cotton be less than twelve cents. per lb. Now, ever since you have established your trade, with scarcely any interval, the price of cotton has diminished, diminished, diminished, and it has been as low as three cents. per lb. [cheers]. You may object to my reasoning with respect to corn; but first rebut my evidence as to tea and cotton, and then you will have the right to do so [cheers].

Having thus met the arguments advanced in favour of the new system of free-trade, he next proceeded to bring forward his own arguments in favour of the old system, and maintained, in opposition to the League, that with Protection we could feed the people, and employ them too. In doing so he pointed out the contradictory character of the arguments enforced by the League:—

I want to meet their case, I declare, in the fairest possible manner. I have great difficulty, I confess, in doing so, and it is because the case of the Anti-corn-law League has perpetually changed [loud cheers from the Protectionists]. It is a very curious thing, but it must be remembered, that though they have been working now seven years, they commenced their agitation by promising cheap bread to the labourer, and they finished by promising high rents to the landlord [cheers]. I do not impute those as changes. I can easily understand, if I took one great principle to work out, and if I viewed it in every light, and turned it over and over in my mind every day, that I should often see very contrary effects arising from the same principle: and I believe that all the Anti-corn-law League all this time, while they thought that they were instructing the people, were only educating themselves [loud cheers from the Protectionists, and laughter]. . . . Continue the agitation, and they may next attack the fundholder. They want a new victim. We are only a link in the great chain. Our case is not entirely hopeless. I think, therefore, we should promote the agitation; because, if we promote the agitation, they may attack a new interest [cheers and great laughter].

It was undisputed, that fifty years ago we were compelled to import corn to supply our population, and that now, when our population was doubled, we fed them from our own resources and at lower prices than formerly. No man could prove that protection had been the bane of agriculture in England, unless he could show that the cultivation of our soil was inferior to that of other countries: but it was generally admitted that it was infinitely superior to that of every nation in the world:—

Take a rural town in the North of Germany, with its one shop, perhaps that of an apothecary, who sells not only drugs, but everything else [laughter]. Compare that rural town in the north of Germany with the rural towns of England [loud cheers]—the smallest rural towns of England, with their many great shops, their six or seven large establishments, abounding in Manchester goods. There you understand what is the home market [loud cheers]. Now, I take a country very near this, the country of our rival and friend, France. It has great advantages in an agricultural point of view—an exuberant soil, a fertile climate. It has none of the disadvantages which militate, or are said to militate, against this country. There is no primogeniture, no hereditary peerage, no entail, and no game laws [laughter and cheers]. I ask, is the agriculture of France in any measure to be compared with that of England?

Those who boasted of our present prosperity could not deny that our people were employed; and if it were not as well employed as he could wish, still its work would not be increased by the admission of foreign competition, nor its wages increased by a reduction in the price of corn. He thought that in England we ought to do more than merely maintain a balance between its agricultural and manufacturing interests—we should give a preponderance to the agricultural:—

I say that there are special reasons which govern you, why you should not only attempt to uphold that balance I have referred to, but why, further, you should give a preponderance to the agricultural interest [cheers]. I don't say preponderance, as said the hon. member for Manchester (Mr. Gibson) the other night, as if quoting from a speech made by the noble lord the member for London, though that noble lord never used the word; but I do repeat preponderance, which indicates what is perfectly legal and constitutional [hear, hear]. And you are bound to do so for this reason—because, as Englishmen, you have a territorial constitution. You have thrown on the land the revenues of the church, the administration of justice, the estate of the poor, and you value this territorial constitution, not to gratify the pride or pamper the luxury of proprietors, but because, in a territorial constitution, you, and those who preceded you, have found the only security for self-government—for that government which stands in proud opposition to the centralised system which has taken root in other countries [loud cheers]. This is why I have ever supported the claims of agriculture. My constituents are

not landlords nor great capitalists—they are, in fact, children of industry and toil. They believe, first, that their material interests are involved in the maintenance of that system which would favour the native industry of the country; they believe that their social and political interests are involved in that system; they believe that that system has guaranteed our rights and liberties; and I agree with them [loud Protectionist cheers]. I may be told that these are worn-out sentiments—exploded fallacies ["Hear, hear," from the Opposition]. I know that we are told that the meaning of this great movement—this free-trade movement—is not merely the repeal of the corn-laws, but the transference of power from one class to another [tremendous cheering]—another distinguished for its intelligence and its wealth—that of the manufacturers of England [loud cheers]. Sir, my conscience assures me that I am not one who have been slow in doing justice to the intelligence of that class—who have ever envied them their deserved prosperity [hear, hear]. But I confess my deep astonishment, that in this age of political legislation, when we trace all our evils to class interests, I am told that we are to be rescued from the alleged power of one class only to sink under the avowed power of another [loud cheers]. I, for one—if this be the end of all our struggles, if this be the great result arrived at by this enlightened age—I, for one, protest against the ignominious catastrophe [cheers]. I believe the monarchy of England—that sovereignty mitigated by the acknowledged authority of the states of the realm—has a root in the hearts of Englishmen; and, moreover, that it is capable of securing the happiness of the people and the power of the state [cheers]. But if these be worn-out terms, if it be true that we have discarded these doctrines, I, for one—anxious as I am to maintain our present polity—am ready for that end to make as many sacrifices as any man. If, sir, we are to have this change, then I hope that the foundations may be deep, and the scheme be comprehensive, and instead of falling into such thralldom—the thralldom of capital, of those who, when they boast of their intelligence are proud of their wealth [cheers]—I, for one, say, if we must find a new force to maintain the ancient throne and immemorial monarchy of England, that I would prefer to find it—to find these invigorating energies—in an educated and enfranchised people. [The honourable gentleman resumed his seat amid vociferous cheering.]

On the motion of Mr. G. BANKES the debate was adjourned to Monday.

#### TENTH DAY

Mr. E. BULLER resumed the adjourned debate on Monday evening, in a brief speech, replying to the arguments of Mr. D'Israeli:—

That honourable member, among other things, had contended for three points:—1. That import, without reciprocity, drained the country of its specie. 2. That it lowered prices. 3. That it reduced wages. He had asked, too, whether the Ministers of this country were prepared to fight hostile tariffs by free imports? He (Mr. E. Buller) was strongly inclined to think, that by means of commercial treaties, Great Britain might enjoy the double advantage of buying in the cheapest and selling in the dearest markets. The hon. member for Shrewsbury had urged that all the manufacturers, and all the principal public men in the United States, and indeed in France, were Protectionists; but if any expectations could be indulged, that foreign nations would be induced to see their true interests in carrying out the principles of free-trade, it could only be produced by showing our own sincerity in adopting and adhering to such principles. If the principle of high protection were the right footing, how did it happen that foreign nations had gained nothing by such a course, while in Great Britain our exports had been annually and rapidly augmenting? The honourable member here entered into some calculations founded upon a comparison of the exports and imports of Great Britain with those of France, but he stated his figures in a tone of voice which prevented us from catching several of the items. The general result was, that while our imports had only doubled, our exports had trebled, within the last few years. Great Britain had been pursuing the course of gradual diminution of protection since 1825, when Mr. Huskisson introduced his great measure of commercial reform. The French had met it by a contrary system, and what had been the result? In the twelve years before 1825, our average exports to France were in value £326,858, and our average imports £939,000. Our average exports to France, from 1833 to 1844, were in value £3,340,000, and our imports £3,035,000. Hence it was evident, that although France had not profited by the example of Great Britain, the success of the latter had been triumphant. The honourable member for Shrewsbury had adverted to Turkey, and had contended that the trade of that country had been ruined by free importation. The truth, however, was, that the honourable member had not at all noticed the many disadvantages with which trade and manufactures had to contend in Turkey; and, independently of free importations, there were many circumstances calculated to check enterprise and fetter industry in Turkey. In proof of this position, the honourable member (Mr. E. Buller) read a hatti sherif, not long since issued by the minister of Turkey, relating to three points; first, the security of property; secondly, the mode of taxing and levying imposts; thirdly, the mode of raising soldiers, and fixing the duration of their services. On the whole, he contended, that if the commerce of Turkey had declined, it was not to be attributed to free importation. The honourable member for Shrewsbury had next adduced the old argument, that it was dangerous for Great Britain to depend upon a supply from foreign countries, especially a supply of corn. He (Mr. E. Buller) denied in the first place that this country was ever completely independent of a foreign supply of corn: in years of scarcity grain for two months' consumption was derived from abroad. In the next place he insisted that there was no danger in this dependence as long as we maintained the masterdom of the ocean; if we once lost that supremacy, there must be an end to the greatness of the empire. The hon. member had insisted, that importations of corn had a tendency to lower wages; but he (Mr. E. Buller) would endeavour to point out in what way his position was destitute of foundation. The honourable member for Shrewsbury said, if four millions of quarters of foreign wheat were introduced, it must be displaced by four millions of quarters of home-grown corn. But what would be really the effect of such an importation? Why, that £6,000,000, instead of £10,000,000, would be laid out by the people in food, and that they would have the remaining £4,000,000 to spend in manufactures or in colonial produce [hear, hear]. Thus would the people be raised in a social, and, consequently, in their moral, position. Thus would they be enabled to support churches and chapels, and send their children to school. "But yours," said the honourable member for Shrewsbury, "is a territorial government. You bestow great honours on the possessors of land, but you do so on great principles." He looked on the honourable gentleman as one who embodied "a great idea," and he looked most anxiously for the enunciation of those great principles to which he referred. He expected some great



truth which was to guide the new generation, and let in light and happiness on our present social system. And what was this great principle? To give preponderance to the landed interest. That was all very well for those who belonged to the favoured class; but how would those who were excluded regard such a principle of Government? If this principle of governing only through and for one section of the community was once sanctioned, her Majesty would no longer be queen of a nation, but sovereign of a faction [hear, hear]. Protection seemed to him to be either a delusion or a fraud. If it meant merely putting into one pocket for manufactures what it took out of the other for food, it was a roundabout system of doing nothing. But the real intention of these laws he believed to be, to benefit one class at the expense of another; for it was impossible effectually to protect our export trade and the monied interest. Though their might be points to cavil at in the measure of the right honourable gentlemen, he should give it a cordial and earnest support, while he bore his testimony to the readiness and humanity with which the Government took a step equally called for by their duty to the Sovereign and the interests of the people [hear, hear].

Captain BATESON avowed, that as an Irish member he should give his decided opposition to the hazardous and revolutionary scheme of the Government. He availed himself of the opportunity to accuse Mr. Bright, on the authority of Mr. Leonard Horner's Factory Report for 1845, of dealing in professions of humanity which were not genuine, and in declarations of liberality and philanthropy towards the poor which were at once spurious and hypocritical. He thus noticed one portion of Mr. Bright's speech:—

The honourable gentleman spoke of the labourers of Wiltshire—a part of his speech replied to by the honourable member for Wilts most successfully—but that honourable gentleman omitted one point, that the average duration of life in Wiltshire was thirty-three years, whereas in Manchester it was but seventeen years.

Returning, however, to the measure immediately before the House, he contended that it would destroy the export trade of Ireland, shut out from Great Britain its agricultural produce, and annihilate its linen trade. It would likewise give a premium to agitation, by enabling the Repealers to state, and unfortunately with truth, that Irishmen were treated in England no better than other foreigners.

Mr. M. GORE supported the Ministerial measure, but would rather it should have been introduced by Lord John Russell.

Mr. R. A. FITZGERALD lauded the Premier and his measure.

Mr. LOCKHART was convinced that it would sweep away all the small farmers of the country, and would throw out of cultivation all the inferior land in the country.

Sir GEORGE CLERK controverted, in a business-like way, the arguments employed, by Mr. D'Israeli especially, in defence of protection. He wished that he could consider that the emergency was only temporary; but he was bound to look beyond the present year; and in a country where the potato was the principal food of the majority of the population, it was his duty to inquire from what quarter that population could procure the seed for the potato crop of 1846 and 1847? The emergency, therefore, was not confined to the present season, but extended to future seasons. Moreover, the deficient supply of potatoes was not confined to Ireland, but extended to England also; and, as a proof of that position, he mentioned that potatoes, which in January, 1845, varied in price from 60s. to 80s. a ton, varied in January, 1846, from 80s. to 160s. a ton. That high price was an index of the deficiency of the supply in England at this moment; but, in May next, he believed that the deficiency would be so large as to require that every impediment to the importation of food should be removed. Besides all this, the grain of the last harvest, though not deficient in bulk, was deficient in weight, and that deficiency produced a very unfavourable effect on the averages. After a defence of the policy adopted by Government in this state of things, much to the same effect as that made by Sir R. Peel, the right honourable gentleman proceeded to defend the measure itself, and to show that it would equalise prices, not by bringing English prices down to the continental level, but by raising continental prices to the English level. First, as to the danger of being inundated with foreign corn:—

Mr. Miles had been frightening the House about importations of corn from Russia (Tamboff again!) Now, it so happened, that a very small portion of the crops in the southern provinces of that empire consisted of wheat. They were principally rye, hemp, and tobacco. The utmost surplus quantity of wheat to be exported from Russia was 670,000 quarters; and, in reality, of these a very small proportion came to England, and if we went into the market other countries would compete with us, and, by such competition, the price would be raised to the English, not depressed to the foreign level. With regard to America, 1840 was the year in which there was the greatest importation from that country into England. Then we received from them only 620,000 barrels of flour. The population of America was now about 20,000,000, and it was supposed that she could export little more than half the wheat she had sent out in 1840, still leaving a supply for her people not greater than four bushels per head. Sir George Clerk's only fear was, if our population were to continue to progress at the ratio in which it had of late years been advancing, we should not be enabled to procure a sufficient supply of food for our own people, even although the resources of Russia and other corn-growing countries were to be developed to the utmost.

Mr. Muntz was equally in the wrong with the hon. member for Somerset:—

That honourable gentleman had asserted on Friday night, to the great joy of the Protectionists, that the zinc trade had suffered from the gradual reduction and abolition of the duty. Now it so happened that there were two species of zinc, that of our own country, which was not malleable, and which could not be converted into those articles into which zinc was now manufactured; and that of foreign countries, which was malleable. The modern zinc trade was, in fact, quite of recent growth, and distinct from the former protected trade in this article.

Next came Mr. D'Israeli's turn:—

The honourable member for Shrewsbury had asserted, that the rule in commerce was, that in proportion as there was a demand for an article the price fell. He had instanced cotton. The fact was, that he had not distinguished between

the different sorts of cotton. Good cotton at New Orleans fetched now from six and a half to nine cents. per lb., instead of three cents., as Mr. D'Israeli had asserted. With regard to tea again, the honourable member was equally in the wrong. Tea recently bore a higher price in Canton than in 1834. His statements about the silk trade were still more glaringly incorrect. First, his figures were wrong; and then his deductions. The only fair criterion of the comparative effects of free-trade and restriction was to take the imports prior to 1824, when the duty on silk was reduced, and the imports after. Well, in 1814, ten years before the duty was reduced, the quantity of raw silk imported into this country was 1,504,235lb.; in 1824, 3,414,520lb.; in 1835 it was 4,151,008lb., and in 1845 it had increased to 4,351,626lb., being 150 per cent. of an increase as compared with 1823, the year before the duty was reduced, being a result as satisfactory as any that ever occurred.

He showed that Mr. D'Israeli—in the comparison which he had drawn between the effects of protection and those of free-trade—had never taken his comparison during an average of years, but had always made his contrast between the best year of protection, and the worst year of free-trade. He proceeded to notice his question, "Can you fight hostile tariffs by free imports?" Now to that question he replied, first, that this measure had not been introduced with any reference to foreign nations, but with reference to the interests of the great mass of the community in the British islands; and next, that Mr. D'Israeli had grossly exaggerated the repugnance of foreign countries, and especially that of France, to a liberal system of commercial policy. Having grappled with all the alleged facts of Mr. D'Israeli, and having satisfied the House, he hoped, that in the statement of them all Mr. D'Israeli had been inaccurate, he next proceeded to comment upon Mr. D'Israeli's opinion that the House ought to give a preponderance to the agricultural interest. For one, he (Sir G. Clerk) repudiated it both as a member of Parliament and as an individual landowner. If the influence of the agricultural interest depended on the continuance of the corn-laws, he for one should tremble for it. Mr. D'Israeli's argument on that point was the most dangerous one that could be used, and had hitherto been always disclaimed by the landowners; for translated into plain English, it meant nothing else, than that the corn-laws must be maintained to keep up the landlords' rents.

Mr. MUNTZ entered into an explanation of his arguments respecting the zinc and spelter trade, which was at last cut short by the interference of the Speaker.

Mr. LIDDELL said that Sir G. Clerk had made one or two of the boldest assertions in his speech which it had ever been his fortune to hear, even from the Treasury benches. If there had been no change in the policy of Government, why was Lord J. Russell on the Opposition and not on the Ministerial benches? and why, from a sensitive sense of honour, had Lord Lincoln gone before his constituents to run the risk of being rejected by them? Passing from Sir G. Clerk's speech, which he considered as a mere *rechauffée* of Sir R. Peel's, he proceeded to discuss that of Sir R. Peel himself, and controverted the statements of Sir R. Peel with respect to the silk trade, and to show that he had not ventured to withdraw protection altogether from it, although he proposed to withdraw it entirely from the corn trade. He reviewed Sir Robert's observations on the timber trade, denounced the proposed reductions in the timber duties as most injurious to the shipping interest, and then stated at considerable length the claim of the shipowners to protection. He concluded by claiming for the shipowner and the agriculturist the protection which they had long enjoyed, and by declaring that so long as he had a seat in the House of Commons, he would endeavour to maintain that protection, and would oppose all such hazardous experiments as the present.

Mr. HUTT reminded the House, that a few days ago he had presented from his own constituents, on the banks of the Tyne, a petition containing a prayer diametrically opposite to that of the petition presented by Mr. Liddell, and declared that they considered that the future safety and prosperity of the shipping interest depended on the passing of the measures which Sir R. Peel had proposed. He then explained the reasons why he should give his support to those measures, and concluded by a piece of advice to *Conservative* members:—

Hon. gentlemen opposite called themselves Conservatives, and piqued themselves on the nomenclature, and he would call upon them to show some title to the name. There was nothing, they might depend upon it, so dangerous, nothing so revolutionary as bad laws. The measure proposed by the Government was, in the fullest and completest sense of the word, a Conservative measure; and if hon. gentlemen meant to vindicate their claim to the appellation with which they dignified their party, they would give their unhesitating support to the wise, salutary, and comprehensive legislation about to be adopted [cheers].

Captain FITZHARRIS repeated the trite invectives of his party against Sir R. Peel's inconsistency on the subject of the corn-laws.

Mr. M. MILNES was not inclined to take the harsh view of Sir R. Peel's conduct which had been taken by many of his friends, when he recollected how many great men had modified their opinions upon the subject (Mr. D'Israeli and Mr. Colquhoun for instance) of the corn-laws. Looking, however, at the past commercial measures of Sir R. Peel and his Government, he could not consider the present project as a legitimate deduction from them. It was not, therefore, from any feeling of confidence in either Sir R. Peel or his Government that he gave his support to it, but because he felt that it was the only course which he could pursue consistently with the opinions which he had formerly held, and which he still continued to hold on the subject of the corn-laws.

On the motion of Lord INGESTRE the debate was again adjourned.

#### INTERFERENCE OF PEERS WITH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.

In the House of Commons, on Thursday, Mr. John COLLETT brought under notice a breach of its privileges committed by Peers in interfering with the election of Members of Parliament. The interference of Peers with elections had become too common, too open, and too notorious to be longer submitted to; and he charged the Dukes of Buckingham, Newcastle, Richmond, and Marlborough, with such interference. He accused them of causing the resignation of certain members sitting for

boroughs over which they exercised control, and of causing the vacancies to be supplied by persons of more subservient politics. Thus, Sir Thomas Fremantle had been obliged to resign his seat for Buckingham; Mr. William Ewart Gladstone (a great public loss at this present time) for Newark, Lord Arthur Lennox for Chichester; their places being supplied by the Marquis of Chandos, Mr. John Stuart, and Lord Henry Lennox. The election of Lord Charles Churchill for Woodstock was to be attributed to undue influence on the part of the Duke of Marlborough. Quoting *Dodd's Parliamentary Companion*, and newspaper reports, Mr. Collett referred to the undue interference exerted by the same parties at the general election of 1841 in the boroughs in question, and repeated as often as vacancies had occurred. He also quoted from historical documents to show the value which the House attached to its privilege, and the punishments inflicted for infringing it; and concluded by moving the appointment of a committee of privileges to inquire into the causes which led to the resignations of the late Members for Chichester, Newark, Woodstock, and Buckingham; also into the circumstances connected with the election of their successors; with the view of ascertaining whether or not the privileges of the House had been infringed.

Mr. WILLIAMS seconded the motion. He deemed the inquiry particularly called for at the present moment, the allegation being, that the case of the recent resignations was a desire to thwart and retard the Ministerial propositions. The peers in question, together with their nominees, had heaped every species of abuse on Sir Robert Peel, and had imputed to him the worst of motives.

Sir ROBERT PEEL opposed the motion, as not resting on recognisable Parliamentary grounds. For himself, he was not aware that imputations had been cast upon his motives; but, although he had been aware that such things had occurred, no feelings of irritation would have influenced him in assenting to or dissenting from this motion. It would be absurd to deny that peers do exercise an influence at elections; and he hoped the day would never come when legitimate influence could be extinguished. No laws could put an end to the operation of those friendly feelings which a peer, a great landowner, and a lord-lieutenant of a county, was able to attract towards him by acts of kindness and liberality to his tenants and to those about him. The question was, are there any Parliamentary grounds for fearing the exercise of illegitimate influence? Mr. Collett affirmed that there were; but he adduced no evidence, except extracts from newspapers; and, if the House were to entertain notions so utterly unsupported by evidence, there would be no end to them. As to Sir Thomas Fremantle, Sir Robert knew that he had resigned his seat from a nice sense of private honour, originating in a pledge which he gave at his election to support the present corn-laws; and his constituents, without any suggestion from the Duke of Buckingham, Sir Robert Peel believed, called for the redemption of the pledge.

Mr. HUME advised that the motion be withdrawn, on the ground that no evidence to warrant it had been produced. But the House should have listened to his own applications to have the standing order against the interference of peers in elections done away with.

Mr. S. CRAWFORD contended, that no case could prove more strongly than the present the necessity of a still further reform in Parliament.

Mr. COLLETT withdrew his motion.

#### THE ANTI-CORN-LAW LEAGUE.

The House of Lords met on Thursday, when a conversation of some length, upon the proceedings of the Anti-corn-law League, in "creating votes," was originated by Lord DACRE, on presenting a petition from Exeter, praying their lordships to institute an inquiry into such proceedings. The noble lord reminded the House, that Parliament had found it necessary to disfranchise the 40s. freeholders in Ireland. He did not venture explicitly to recommend a similar course with regard to the English freehold franchise; but that was obviously the "remedy" to which his remarks pointed. He affected to dread the sub-division of property which would be occasioned by cutting up the surface of the country for the creation of these votes.

Lord KINNARD, as a member of the League, would support the prayer of the petition, courting the inquiry. It was notorious, however, he remarked, that the League are not the only body that have interfered in this way. The town of Buckingham had formerly returned two Liberal members; but the present owner of the Borough had, by the purchase of houses, obtained the power of nominating whom he pleased.

Lord REDESDALE asserted, that the proceedings of the League were a gross interference with the electoral franchise; "worse even than the proceedings of the Duke of Bedford some time ago, in making faggot votes in Huntingdonshire." It was because they were conscious that the people were against them, that they wished to tamper with the constituency!

Lord GREY admitted the existence of the League to be a serious and formidable evil; but it was only a symptom of a greater evil, the existence of a state of the law which a large portion of the intelligent people felt to be an intolerable grievance. The real remedy was, for the Legislature to take the lead in public opinion.

Lord ASHBURTON made one wise remark: he did not think that much benefit would be derived from a revival of the discussion.

And so the matter dropped.

#### COERCION FOR IRELAND.

In the House of Lords on Monday night, the Earl of St. GERMAN moved the second reading of the Irish Coercion Bill, and, after observing on the lamentable frequency of the crime of murder in Ireland, proceeded to adduce various documentary proofs of the unsettled state of the country. The Government had exhausted every resource in their power to give efficiency to the existing law, and now had recourse to the present measure, as the only means for protecting the lives and liberties of all classes, but more especially of the poor in Ireland. There was every reason to believe that the crimes in question were concocted and committed by persons



illegally assembling during the night; and to prevent these meetings, the bill, besides other provisions, contained a clause forbidding all persons to be out of their dwellings between sunset and sunrise. The House must not suppose that this was the only measure contemplated by the Government for the relief of Ireland, but no plan of social or political improvement could be effectual until the present system of terror and intimidation was put down.

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE could not think of offering the least opposition to a bill so imperatively called for as the present, but hoped the Government would not think itself relieved from the necessity of bringing forward other measures for the amelioration of Ireland, which would be calculated to give more universal satisfaction in that country.

Lord BROUGHAM thought the bill ought to be passed with the least possible delay, but regretted that it did not contain one provision which he had before advocated, to the effect that trials should not take place in a part of the country where the jurors would be exposed to the shot of the assassin.

Lord FARNHAM gave his most cordial support to the bill.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE defended himself against the attacks of a portion of the Irish press which had assailed him for adhering to the proposed coercive measure, which seemed to him to stand alone, and to be unconnected with any other projects for the benefit of Ireland. He did not, however, concur in all the details of the bill, which he thought should be limited as to its duration, and which was defective in the degrees of punishment apportioned to certain offences.

The Earl of WICKLOW gave his hearty assent to the Ministerial plan.

The Earl of CLANCARTY objected to the clause in the bill, giving the Lord-lieutenant power to send down into a disturbed district any number of resident magistrates, or any additional police force he might think proper, and recommended communication with the local magistracy as likely to be more efficient.

Lord CAMPBELL protested against the proposition of Lord Brougham, that power should be given to the Executive to choose another place of trial. His noble and learned friend had said such a power was sanctioned by the law of England, but the House might rest assured it was not, and that it would be an encroachment on the liberty of the subject.

After a few words in explanation from Lord BROUGHAM,

Earl GREY said, that though some of the provisions in the bill were repugnant to his feelings, he thought a case had been made out for arming the Government with additional powers. He could not, however, consider the present measure as disconnected with other plans for the amelioration of Ireland, and he thought the House should record, by a solemn vote, its opinion of the necessity of coupling this Coercion Bill with others of a more comprehensive and statesmanlike nature. So strong was his opinion on this point, that if no other noble lord came forward, he should feel it his duty to move, on the third reading of the bill, a resolution for an address to her Majesty, pledging their lordships not to rest satisfied with this measure alone.

After a few words from Lord WESTMEATH, the bill was read a second time, and the House adjourned.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

**THE WAR ON THE RIVER PLATE.**—On Thursday Lord BEAUMONT brought before the House of Lords, by a motion for papers, the subject of the recent armed intervention in the affairs of the river Plate. The Earl of ABERDEEN entered into a full and satisfactory explanation of the circumstances which had led to the interference. The destructive war which had for several years existed in the Plate, was one of the most wicked and most senseless that ever took place; and it had been the object of Great Britain, if possible, to arrest its progress. Three times the mediation of England and France had been refused by Buenos Ayres, before coercion had been had recourse to, with a view to secure the independence of the republic of Uruguay; but negotiations with Buenos Ayres are now going forward, which, it is hoped, would issue in the re-establishment of pacific relations. The motion was withdrawn.

**BOROUGH OF WIGAN.**—The SPEAKER informed the House, on Thursday, that he had received a letter from James Lindsay, Esq., stating that it was not his intention to defend his return for the borough of Wigan.

**THE MILITIA.**—There have been a large number of petitions presented to the House of Commons against the proposed enrolment of the militia, and for a settlement of the Oregon question by arbitration. Amongst these was one from Leeds, signed by 13,000 persons, and a second from 627 inhabitants of Preston, and one from Rochdale with 5,381 signatures.

**LONDON PRISONS.**—Lord SANDON gave notice, that on an early day he would direct attention to the state of the prisons within the jurisdiction of the city of London.

**IRISH FRANCHISE AND REPRESENTATION.**—In reply to a category of questions put by Mr. O'Connell, on Monday evening, Sir R. PEEL made the following statement:—

He did not propose to bring in any new Government bill, excepting, perhaps, one of pressing necessity, but to give precedence to those measures which were now under discussion affecting the agricultural and commercial interests of the country. As far as Ministers were concerned, such would be the course, but some financial votes might be required for the conduct of public affairs [hear]. Measures now pending would have precedence of all others [cheers]. He would also state to the hon. and learned gentleman, that it was hoped Government might be enabled to introduce a bill to encourage the improvement of land in Ireland, by providing, in certain cases, compensation for improvements to tenants according to the terms of their holdings [hear, hear]. It was also hoped that Government would be enabled to bring in a bill in the present session, amending the law respecting the registration of county voters, and as to the mode of holding elections generally in Ireland [cheers]. That bill would also contain an alteration of the law in some respects as regarded the franchise. On the subject of municipal corporations he hoped to be enabled to bring in a bill, the effects of which would be substantially (he did not say in every particular, because the institutions of the countries vary), to assimilate

as nearly as possible the municipal franchise in Ireland to the municipal franchise in England [cheers]. It would hardly be fair to expect from him a more explicit statement at present [hear, hear]. He would much rather defer further explanation until the noble Secretary for Ireland should have an opportunity of explaining the details to the House [hear, and some laughter].

**MINISTERS' MONEY (IRELAND).**—On Friday, Lord Campbell presented a petition from Cork, praying for the abolition of the charge called Ministers' money, and urged the impolicy of retaining so unpopular a tax. The Earl of St. Germans admitted the charge to be a practical grievance, and said the subject was under consideration.

**THE DEAF AND DUMB.**—A meeting of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society, and their friends, took place on Thursday evening, the 19th instant, at Wardour-street chapel, Soho. About two hundred deaf and dumb persons were present. Mr. J. Robinson, minister, presided. A very interesting Report of the progress of the Society was read. The object of the Society is for the propagation of the gospel among the deaf and dumb. The meeting was addressed by the following ministers:—Messrs. Saunders, J. Wilson, R. Redpath, and Underwood. The speakers urged the importance of the object of the Society, and expressed their warm approbation of the efforts made by Mr. R. Simson, in preaching the gospel to the deaf and dumb. Several of the ministers expressed the high pleasure they had in preaching to the deaf and dumb. A paper from Mr. Newport was read, on behalf of his afflicted brethren, entreating the sympathies and aid of the Christian public to carry on their good work. A small piece of plate was presented to Mr. R. Simson, as a token of regard for the benefits they have received while under his ministry. Mr. Burns, a deaf and dumb gentleman, a teacher of the deaf and dumb, presented an affectionate address to Mr. R. Simson on delivering the plate to him. Mr. Simson's reply was in every way worthy of his well-known religious feeling and zeal for them. We understand that Mr. Simson has been labouring nearly four years in preaching the gospel among the deaf and dumb, who meet twice every Lord's day, at the Scotch chapel, 17, Fetter-lane.

**SHEPTON MALLET.**—We have a Literary Institution in this town, in connection with which a reading room has been established, the ostensible object of which is to communicate liberal knowledge, and to extend the information of those who, from circumstances, might be unable otherwise to acquire it. Papers of different shades of politics have been laid on the table, and among others the *Nonconformist* was proposed, by one who was, in fact, the originator of the Institute, and without whom it could never have survived to the present time. Now, although papers advocating high church principles are to be admitted, yet, from a fear of offending the prejudices of an ignorant few, the gentlemen of the committee refused to allow the *Nonconformist* to enter. This is most absurd—this surely is not sympathising with the wishes of the inquiring, or aiding the progress of "liberal knowledge."—*From a Correspondent.*

At Hamburg, the receipt of the news of the intended alteration in the corn-laws advanced wheat 2s. to 3s. per quarter. At Dantzic, the most sanguine expectations are entertained about the future price of wheat; and no offers made under 53s. to 55s. per quarter, free on board, in spring. At Stettin, the free-trade proposals of Sir Robert Peel were considered as indications of impending scarcity in Great Britain: 51s. 6d. to 52s. 6d., free on board, is the lowest quotation.—*Leeds Mercury.*

**MURDER AND SUICIDE AT CAMBERWELL.**—On the morning of Monday week, M. Horeau, a French teacher, residing at Westmoreland-place, Camberwell, killed two of his children; the one, a lad of twelve, by cutting his throat; the other, an infant, by throwing it into the water-butt: he attempted to kill a third, but it is believed the wounds are not mortal. The destroyer then cut his own throat, and expired. Extreme poverty, and the want of means for another meal, had driven him to despair. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of "Insanity." [M. Horeau, some three or four years ago, resided in Leicester, and pursued the profession of a teacher of languages, especially that of his own—the French. He was for some time Professor of Languages at the Proprietary-school, and also acted as Teacher of the French class in the Mechanics' Institute, where, we believe, he was much respected.]

**LAW OF SETTLEMENT.**—The Ministerial proposition for changing the present law of settlement is exciting much discussion in various parts of the country. Many of the town councils have taken up the subject; amongst others, Birmingham and Derby. In reference to the discussions in these places, the *Midland Counties Advertiser* says:—"We were sorry to read in a local paper an account of the proceedings of the town council of Derby. The anticipated change is so free from objection, that we should be sorry to see the council so disgrace itself as to oppose any alterations. We have repeatedly shown that it is not a measure that will press with any severity upon large towns; and if it did, justice, humanity, and every good principle on which the social edifice is built, must be in favour of it."

**GOOD ADVICE TO THE LANDLORDS.**—In a letter to the chairman of the Alford Agricultural Society in favour of unrelaxed protection, Lord Willoughby d'Eresby gives the following excellent advice to the landed interest:—

It may appear presumptuous in me to offer advice to the landed proprietors; but I must say, that, if they permit the proposed measure to become the law, they are bound in honour to convert their fixed money rents into grain rents, taking the present rent as the maximum payment, and granting deductions each year according to the averages of grain in the year preceding. All my own land has been let on this principle for twenty years past, when the agricultural depression first began, and I can safely recommend it as an easy, just, and profitable arrangement.

**EARTHQUAKE AT COMRIE.**—On Monday last, at half-past ten o'clock in the morning, a smart shock of an earthquake was observed at Comrie. The morning was pleasant, with a stiff northerly breeze, which fell very shortly after the earthquake.—*Scotsman*

#### POSTSCRIPT.

Wednesday, February 25th.

#### PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

##### THE CORN-LAW DEBATE

Still drags its slow length along in the House of Commons. For the tenth time it was resumed last night, and again adjourned to Thursday. Happily, there is a prospect—distant though it be—of its termination. Last night, before the discussion was continued, Sir R. Peel presented a petition from the President and other members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Liverpool, stating, that in consequence of the suspense which existed as to the decision on the commercial measures recently submitted to the consideration of Parliament great embarrassment was caused to trade. The petition was received with loud cheers, and seemed to produce its effect; for, at the close of the debate, at one o'clock, Mr. MILES spoke rather strongly upon the necessity of coming to an early division—thought that the subject had been amply discussed—and said, that with regard to Ireland, if the right hon. baronet introduced a short bill, the object of which should be to give an immediate supply of food, his (Mr. Miles') consent should be cheerfully given to its passing. There is little doubt that the division will actually take place on Friday evening.

The speeches last night were quite equal to the average in dulness, but Mr. Busfield Ferrand saved the House from total stagnation. Mr. M. J. O'CONNELL opened the discussion with an impressive speech on the impending famine in Ireland. It will be fresh in the recollection of our readers, that the Recorder of Dublin, Mr. Shaw, denied, the other night, the existence of the evil to anything like the extent supposed; he maintained, that on this subject a system of the most gross exaggeration prevailed. Upon this point Mr. M. J. O'Connell joined issue with him, and met Mr. Shaw's mere assertion with a mass of evidence perfectly overwhelming. Mr. M. J. O'Connell asked the House why potatoes had become the almost universal food of the people of Ireland? The great cause was the high price of bread-corn. The conclusion, therefore, to which he came was, that the sooner all laws restricting the importation of the food of the people were done away with the better for all classes of the community. Mr. M. O'CONNELL cleverly exposed the weakness of the Protectionists:—

There was no doubt that, when this debate was over, they would again become the humble servants of the right hon. baronet [cries of "No, no," answered by cheers]. In 1829, *Nusquam tuta fides* was the exclamation; yet they had restored to him all their confidence: again *Nusquam tuta fides* would be the cry, and again they would submit themselves to his mercy [cheers and laughter]. What could they do without him [hear, hear]? Whom could they put in his place [hear, hear]? Lists of new sets of ministers had been circulated, but they only seemed worthy of the satirical pages of the admirable *Punch*. On this point he might quote to the House a passage from the posthumous pamphlet of the Rev. Sydney Smith:—"And let me beg of my dear ultras not to imagine that they survive for a single instant without Sir Robert—that they could form an ultra-Tory administration. Is there a Chartist in Great Britain who would not, upon the first intimation of such an attempt, order a new suit of clothes, and call upon the milkman and baker for an extended credit? Is there a political reasoner who would not come out of his hole with a new constitution?" After reading the words of so eminent a man, he was unwilling to add anything of his own, since it must appear to vast disadvantage; but he would ask, whether there was a bear on the Stock Exchange who would not realise large profits under such a minister, or a stockholder who would not be a sufferer? If he (Mr. M. J. O'Connell) wished to see such great changes accomplished, his earnest desire would be that the right honourable baronet should be thwarted, and that his present adversaries should be compelled to form a ministry of their own [laughter and cheers].

Captain CONOLLY, Viscount INGESTRE, and Mr. PACE, followed on the Protectionist side. At the close of his speech Lord Ingestre, amid general laughter, took from his pockets a quantity of new potatoes, of a very fine quality, grown, he stated, from the eyes of diseased potatoes, and which he produced for the examination of any hon. member curious on the subject, in order to show the fallaciousness of the statement, that good potatoes could not be obtained from the seed of the diseased roots. Mr. TRELAWNEY heartily supported the measure, only regretting its incompleteness and want of frugality.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER made the Ministerial speech of the night. It was, however, for the most part, a repetition of former arguments. The really new point with which the Chancellor of the Exchequer grappled, was the question of the shipping interest, and the manner in which they had been affected, and were likely to be affected, by the removal of protective duties. In the year 1842, the tonnage of British vessels engaged in the foreign trade amounted to 2,600,000 tons. In the year 1845, it was 3,669,000 tons, showing an increase consequent on the relaxation of duties of one million of tons in that period. Again, it was said that injurious effects were likely to result to the timber trade from the proposed measure—let us see what injury has resulted from the relaxations which have hitherto taken place. In 1842, the number of ships engaged in the Baltic trade was 3,519, their tonnage 613,809 tons; in 1844, the number was 4,424, their tonnage 818,440 tons, showing an increase of 1,000 ships and 200,000 tons. With regard to the colonies, he laid down a new (as coming from Ministerial lips) and sound doctrine:—

Now, sir, I stand up as highly as any man for the importance of preserving the colonial connexion, and of doing everything for the colonies which is just, and equitable, and right, and likely to conduce to their benefit [hear, hear.] But I say, sir, if in dealing with a colony you place its produce upon the same footing as you do the produce of your own country, they have no right to complain [cheers from the Opposition]. If the Canadians complain that the advantages possessed by them are diminished, they stand in the same position as the mother country [hear, hear.] They must share the inconvenience—if inconvenience there be, and I don't admit that inconvenience will exist—but



they will have no right to complain of the course that has been taken [hear, hear].

In defending his change of opinion he reminded the House that—

He knew of no public man, from Mr. Huskisson or Lord Brougham down to any other public man of the present day, who had had to deal with the question of the corn-laws, who had not, at some time or other changed his opinion on the subject [hear, hear, and laughter]. Even his honourable friend the member for Northamptonshire (Mr. Stafford O'Brien) had said in the course of his speech that the present duty on corn never could be regarded as permanent. He, therefore, was at variance on the subject with many hon. gentlemen round him [hear, hear]. He would, however, ask his honourable friend when he thought the time would arrive when they could, with a regard to consistency, make an alteration in the present corn-laws, or when they could abrogate them altogether [cheers, laughter, and cries of "No!"]?

Mr. FERRAND had the remainder of the evening to himself; and, at his own expense, kept the House amused with his stentorian ebullitions, more worthy of a village pot-house than the English House of Commons. After the dullness of the preceding portion of the debate, anything was doubtless grateful that imparted to it something of briskness and incident. And Mr. Ferrand maintained his former reputation. Like honest Bottom, "he did his part extempore, for it was nothing but roaring." His speech was a succession of dramatic scenes, or rather, of highly-spiced personal attacks. He informed the House, that either of his candidates might easily have beaten Lord Morpeth for the West Riding of Yorkshire, only, somehow or other, they displayed an unaccountable unwillingness to come forward. The League "had, by fraud and perjury—he repeated, by fraud and perjury—swamped the honest and constitutional electors." Commencing with the Treasury Bench, he went the round of the House, amidst the uproarious cheering of the Protectionists. Mr. Beckett Denison came in for a large share of his abuse. He asked Mr. Escott:—

Had he forgotten the visit which he paid to the Buckinghamshire farmers, prior to the last election? Did he forget drinking their wine, putting them on their backs, and making them give one cheer more for agriculture [loud laughter]? Did he forget, after that, fighting the borough with another Protectionist, and driving their opponents out of the field?

Mr. Cripps, Sir G. Clerk, and Mr. Sidney Herbert then passed in review. He said that Sir James Graham might dispose of all speeches in that House with one fling of his arm; but he could not dispose of his constituents in that summary manner. With regard to the Premier, he said:—

Could the right honourable baronet look honourable gentlemen—honourable by courtesy, honourable by character, and honourable by the consistency of their political opinions—could he look them in the face, at that moment, and say he had conducted himself with common honesty? [Protectionist cheers.] . . . Perhaps the right honourable baronet's attention would be roused by the communication of a piece of intelligence which had just reached his (Mr. Ferrand's) ears, and that was, that the Protectionists were, up to one o'clock to-day, 460 ahead in South Nottinghamshire [tremendous cheering from the agricultural benches].

Leaving the Ministerial benches, he threatened that he would show up every man there seated who voted against protection, and move an address to her Majesty, praying that they might be sent back to their constituents. Then came the everlasting subject of the mill-owners and factory reports, and, lastly, the League and its members. With reference to the free-trade petitions, the Anti-corn-law League had, he said, boxed up an unfortunate scrivener, who, with his own single hand, had subscribed 14,000 signatures to the petition which Lord Morpeth had presented to the House. Is Mr. Ferrand (says the *Chronicle*, in noticing his effusion) quite in his right senses? His conduct last night leaves us a little in doubt upon the subject. A pot-house in Yorkshire would appear to be a fitter scene for the utterance of the bedlamite ravings which our readers will find in our report of the debate, than the English House of Commons.

Mr. O'CONNELL gave notice, that he should bring the case of Bryan Seery before the House this day.

EDUCATION IN WALES.—Mr. WILLIAMS postponed his motion for inquiry to be made into the state of education in the principality of Wales until that day fortnight.

THE LATE VICTORIES IN INDIA.—Sir ROBERT PEEL gave notice that, on Monday next, he should move that the thanks of the House of Commons be given to the Governor-general, to the officers and men of the British and Indian army, lately employed on the left bank of the Sutlej. And, in order to make their proceedings more intelligible, and to render the policy of the Indian Government more clear, he should lay on the table of the House the despatches which have been lately received from the Governor-general.

IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS, last night, the Fishery Piers and Harbour (Ireland) Bill was read a second time, as was also Lord Dacre's Game-law Bill, the object of which was thus described by the noble peer:—

He proposed, that the licensed dealer should be subject to the same penalty if he purchased from persons not in a condition to rear and feed game, as if he purchased from a person not licensed to kill game. He was far from wishing to require an extensive possession of land. If they could imagine that ten or fifteen acres were sufficient for the purpose of rearing any quantity of game, let that be sufficient to enable a person to sell. The bill also contained ample provision for the security of the possessor of game, and likewise provided for the reimbursement of those neighbouring occupiers who sustained damage from the game kept by adjoining landowners. He proposed that, on any damage being inflicted by game, the person injured should have the power of at once appealing to the bench of magistrates, who should appoint a surveyor to assess the damages, which should be recovered, if necessary, by a distress. Those were the principal points of his bill, which might more properly be termed an amendment of the 1st and 2nd William IV., than a new bill.

The Duke of Richmond and Lord HATHERTON related their efforts for the destruction of game, and the discussion was suspended until the bill is to be proposed in committee, on Monday next.

## SOUTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ELECTION.

### THE FIRST DAY'S POLL.

(From the *Morning Chronicle*.)

NOTTINGHAM, TUESDAY, HALF-PAST SIX, P.M.—The polling of the first day's contest for the south division of the county of Nottingham has taken place to-day at six different polling places, viz.:—Bowdham, Southwell, Newark, Sutton, Bingham, and East Leake.

The poll was opened at each place at nine o'clock in the morning, and commenced with determined vigour, each party feeling confident of success.

At the polling places the parties had each a band of music to escort their voters to the booth, which contributed greatly to enliven the proceedings. Hundreds of villagers, in addition to the electors, thronged the streets, and during the seven hours which were occupied in polling, the most intense interest was excited. All seemed anxiety, bustle, and confusion. This was the case in all the districts.

### CLOSE OF THE FIRST DAY'S POLL.

	Lord Lincoln's Committee's Report.	Hildyard's Committee's Report.
	Lincoln. Hildyard.	Lincoln. Hildyard.
Sutton-upon-Trent ..	98.....288.....	98.....286
Southwell .....	124.....232.....	124.....232
Lowdham .....	201.....168.....	200.....168
Newark .....	202.....204.....	198.....206
Bingham .....	88.....429.....	88.....429
East Leake .....	151.....191.....	151.....191
	954 1,512	939 1,512

It is doubtful whether Lord Lincoln will be able to beat down this large majority against him. The correspondent of the *Times*, at Bingham, writes, last night:—"A considerable number yet remain unpollled; but Lord Lincoln's committee begin to despair a little, being much astonished at the number polled on the other side. They seemed to have expected more to have remained neutral."

THE HUTCHINSON FAMILY.—AMERICAN ANTI-SLAVERY MINSTRELS.—We introduced these delightful singers to the notice of our readers upon their first arrival in this country, and we spoke then merely on report. We have since been permitted to judge for ourselves—on Wednesday night in last week, and again last evening, at the Hanover-square Rooms. Our expectations had been raised, but they were fairly outdone. We can hardly express the sense of exquisite gratification which these minstrels produced in our mind. We shall take the opportunity, in our next number, of stating more fully our opinion of their merits. Meanwhile, we can cordially commend them to the notice of all our readers who take pleasure in the associations of the highest sentiments of humanity—peace, benevolence, and liberty—with harmony the most delicious, and expression the most vivid and touching.

Mr. Leader, it appears, does not intend to stand again for the representation of Westminster.—*Globe*.

A CABINET COUNCIL was held yesterday afternoon at the Foreign-office, which sat an hour and a half.

ANOTHER RESIGNATION.—The Hon. Captain Gordon, M.P. for Aberdeenshire, announces to his constituents that he has seen it his duty, in reference to the present measures of Government, to take his stand on the side of protection to the native industry of the country; and, in order to leave himself free and unfettered on the subject of the corn laws, has resigned his seat at the Admiralty Board.

THE APPREHENDED SCARCITY AND FEVER IN IRELAND.—There are private letters which give very gloomy accounts of the state of the potato crop in a large district of the county of Westmeath. If these reports are not exaggerated, there is not, according to one statement, a fortnight's supply of the staple article of food on hand, and that relief, to be of service, must be prompt and efficient. Dr. Fitzgerald, the medical attendant of the Croom Dispensary, in the county of Limerick, has written an alarming statement to a local paper, respecting the rapid progress of fever among the lower orders, superinduced, in a great measure, by the badness and insufficiency of food:—"I am sorry to inform the public," he writes, "that fever, in a most aggravated form, is raging here. There is scarcely a family in some of the localities here that is not suffering under the malady. I am sorry to add, that I consider it produced, in a great degree, by the badness and insufficiency of food."

RECEPTION OF MR. GEORGE THOMPSON AT LEICESTER.—On Monday evening, a public meeting of the "Liberal electors and other inhabitants," was held in the New-hall, which was crowded to excess, only a few seats being used for ladies, while the remainder of the room contained a dense mass of persons wedged together, and numbers were unable to gain admission. The appearance of Mr. Thompson, accompanied by Captain Cogan, of the League, was hailed with much cheering. On the motion of Mr. W. Baines, seconded by Mr. Swain, Mr. J. Collier was unanimously called to the chair, and stated that the invitation to Mr. Thompson had originated in a deep and growing feeling in the minds of some electors, that great principles, heretofore too much neglected, ought to be represented in Parliament. Mr. Thompson then expounded his views on the three great questions of commercial, religious, and political reform, in a clear, calm, and judicious manner, and sat down amidst much applause. Mr. C. Billson moved, and Mr. D. D. Slade seconded, a resolution declaring Mr. Thompson a fit and proper person to represent the borough, and pledging the meeting to support him at the next election. Mr. L. Staines, the election-agent of the Whigs, then moved an amendment in favour of Mr. Wynn Ellis (though that gentleman had formally announced his determination not to stand again), which was seconded by Mr. E. Mitchell. For the amendment an exceedingly small number of hands appeared, and the resolution was carried by a vast majority. Mr. Mursell and Mr. Baines briefly addressed the meeting in favour of Mr. Thompson, who suitably acknowledged

the vote; and, thanks having been given to the chairman, on the motion of Mr. G. Vicars, seconded by Mr. Harley, the assembly dispersed at a late hour.—*From our Correspondent*.

THE QUEEN OF SPAIN.—The *Tiempo* says, that when General Narvaez announced to the Queen his determination to resign, her Majesty said, "If I accept your resignation, where shall I find a Minister who will give me as many balls as you do?" The new Ministry are looked upon as merely provisional, and not likely to last long. Narvaez has been appointed Commander-in-chief, and is virtually dictator.

FREE-TRADE IN FRANCE.—The commercial reform movement in England, although it has had little effect on the French Government, or on the Chamber of Deputies, is not without its effect on the commercial community in France. The Society of Political Economists of Paris have determined on sending an address to the London Corn-law League, expressing its approbation and support of the views and principles so triumphantly advocated by Mr. Cobden and his friends. An association has been formed at Bordeaux, for the purpose of propagating sound views on political-economical subjects, and of employing the most effectual means to have the principles of free-trade adopted in France. This association is composed of merchants, proprietors, and manufacturers, and has taken the title of "Association for the Liberty of Exchanges."

STATE OF POLAND.—In consequence of the extraordinary measures adopted by the Austrian and Prussian Governments, no actual insurrection has taken place in this distracted country, as was anticipated. The *Cologne Gazette* of the 21st instant, quotes the following letter from Lemberg, in Galicia:—"We are here in a painful situation, receiving daily the most alarming accounts from Posen and Poland. Arrests continue on a large scale. Our prisons are full. The civil population and the army are both compromised in the last conspiracy. This state of things is the more singular, as in 1839 the regiment of infantry of Galicia (of Mazucheli) was implicated in a similar manner. The Government is said to distrust the political dispositions of the troops. The Archduke Ferdinand insists on the rigorous execution of the sentences pronounced against the military conspirators. M. Mosing, the Councillor of Appeals, is to proceed to Posen, as Imperial Commissioner, to obtain information relative to the conspiracy." In Posen, 100 Polish noblemen have been taken into custody, and a great quantity of gunpowder and money seized.

SHOCKING ACCIDENT AT FOLKSTONE.—LOSS OF THIRTEEN LIVES.—Yesterday (Tuesday), at noon, twenty men employed in extending the sea-wall at Folkstone, by some means or other obtained access to a cave which the South Eastern railway company used as a powder magazine. The men got in with the view of being sheltered from the rain while they partook of their dinner, after which one of them lit his pipe, and then carelessly threw a congrue match on the ground among some loose powder. In one moment the cave was rent, and the poor unfortunate men were blown a considerable distance by the explosion, some into the sea and others against the rocks. Eleven of them were killed on the spot. The remaining nine, with one exception, who miraculously escaped with comparatively little injury, were very seriously injured. Two of these have since died.

THE GREATEST MAN IN ENGLAND.—"A Reader of *The Nation*" (who says he has a wager depending upon our decision) asks, "Who is the greatest man in England?" Hudson, of course—George Hudson, the railway king, we regard as the highest manifestation, and, indeed, the "bright consummate flower" of modest English civilisation—the type-Englishman of the nineteenth century—the great exponent, preacher, prophet, and high priest of the mammon-gospel wherein that nation lives, and moves, and has its being; he is the only hero possible in these times—the hero as railway king—if, indeed, he be not himself an incarnation of the very *numen* of that golden religion. Yet neither does this hypothesis satisfy us. No eye, we persuade ourselves, hath seen George Hudson; he is an abstraction of the mind, and not a living wight. A generation of transcendental shareholders, gazing earnestly into the heaven of luck, illumined by Aladdin's lamp, have formed to themselves an ideal of immortal money—have spiritualised whatever they have known or dreamed of beauty in premiums, of majesty in dividends, of glory in cent. per cent., and have called it—Hudson. We have heard say that faith is dead in England. What! is there no faith in Hudson? Do they not believe, if not in Scripture, at least in scrip? Have they not a hope, anchored deep in the Stock Exchange? Consider the "Testimonial" which the English nation is presenting to George Hudson. This, to the careless eye, seems a mere expression of profoundest reverence by a nation of gamblers to the supremely lucky: 'tis no such matter—there is something sacred and sacrificial in it; it is an offering of pure silver and gold, seven times refined, to the god of the precious metals, and is accompanied, we cannot doubt, by prayers, and vows, and mystic observances similar to those of Eleusis. Nay, have we not heard of a temple, or sacred precinct, called "Capel-court," where human sacrifices are immolated, and where unqualified worshippers, daring to come within the veil and gaze on the sublime mysteries with eyes profane, are said to be transformed like Actæon, and hunted by hungry hounds? Now, if our correspondent complain that this is rather a Pagan myth than an answer to his question, and that if Hudson be more than man the bet cannot be decided in his favour, then we refer him to *Bell's Life in London*.—*Dublin Nation*.

### CORN MARKET. MARK LANE. THIS DAY.

	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Beans	Peas	Flour.
English ....	1330	1310	1820			
Scotch .....						
Irish .....			2200			
Foreign ....	8580		60			

Price nominally the same, but very little doing.



Terms for advertising in the *Nonconformist*.  
For 7 lines....5s. 0d. | For 10 lines....6s. 0d.  
For every additional line..... 4d.

Advertisements from the country must be accompanied by a post-office order, or reference for payment in London.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications are acknowledged from "T. Clarke" and "Veritas."

"J. Anstead," *The Leicestershire Mercury*.

A Correspondent, who gives his name, asks, "Is it the duty of a Christian church, according to its ability, to maintain its necessitous poor, independent of parochial relief?" The question, we believe, is for our readers.

"The Editor of the Welsh Newspaper," next week.

The writer of the letter on "Nicholas's cruelty to the Nuns at Minak," is not aware, perhaps, that the whole story has been proved to be an invention, got up by Romish parties, to create sympathy for their church.

"W. Rennie." We will communicate with him privately in the course of the week.

## The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25, 1846.

#### SUMMARY.

THE news from India is distressing, and will carry grief into the hearts of many a British family. Our arms have gained a victory over the Sikhs, and the rumour to this effect, brought by the Overland Mail some three weeks back, is substantially verified—but the advantage has been dearly purchased. Some four thousand of our own men have fallen, including nearly a hundred officers, amongst whom the most conspicuous is Sir Robert Sale; and about nine thousand Sikhs have perished in the conflict. Such are the trophies of war—such its glory! We stay not now to inquire upon whom the blame of this awful sacrifice of human life must rest. In this particular instance the Sikh soldiery were undoubtedly the aggressors; but, could all the influences which have contributed to form their determination be analysed and estimated, we much doubt whether Great Britain could shake herself clear of a great portion of the responsibility. Our past policy in India, our numerous wars of conquest, our invasion of Afghanistan, our subjugation and annexation of Scinde, our whole bearing in the Eastern peninsula—who can calculate the force with which all these have told upon the restless military of the Punjab? It is but reasonable to suppose that these causes have had no inconsiderable share in provoking the outrages which have cost ourselves and others so dear. In the long run, it will be found that the maxim is invariably true, "They that take the sword shall perish by the sword." We doubt much whether the cup of punishment which our Eastern policy had filled, has even yet been drained to the dregs. The seed we have sown has not yet produced all its fruit. Setting out upon a wrong road to greatness, and persisting in it for a long series of years, it is not possible for us to retrace our steps at our own pleasure. We have fostered vicious systems, and we must ourselves bear the evil of them. We have made enemies, and we must endure their wrath. We have awakened suspicions, and we must submit to the inconvenience and the alarms which they evermore create. Sir Henry Hardinge may be blameless in regard to the recent terrible conflict—but neither British Governments, nor the British public, can justly boast, "These hands are clean."

The great corn-law debate still moves on—No! that is not the word—it does not move, but it carries. It is no longer a discussion—it is merely a series of recitations, the sole object of which would seem to be, a delay of what is inevitable. We cannot consent to weary our readers with any characteristic description of the speeches delivered since our last number. Last week's summary will do, with little change, for this. Novelty of argument was scarcely to have been expected—variety of treatment would have been some relief. But even this, with one exception on the Protectionist side, and two or three on the side of the Free-traders, will be looked for in vain. Mr. D'Israeli has done his best to adorn triteness, and to give a philosophy to error—but his success was far from flattering. There are some propositions which no genius can cause to blossom—some maxims of policy which no generalisation can expand into even a semblance of statemanship. Mr. D'Israeli strained his powers to give vitality to what is sapless—but he convinced nobody of anything beyond his own cleverness. He galvanised the corpse into convulsive motion—but none dreamt, even for a moment, that he warmed it into life. The philosopher had his brief triumph—but was never once mistaken for the prophet who could recal the dead. Mr. Duncombe's was a noticeable speech—simply, because it vocalised what is passing in the thoughts of many thousands who have not learned the shibboleth of party. He unveiled the selfishness, not of the landowner merely, but also of the millowner, and warned the Ministry of a design on foot, to pass that part of the measure which relaxes commerce as speedily as possible, with the view of afterwards defeating that portion of it which gives a five years' industrial settlement to the poor. Mr. Bright was a spirited and telling speech—cogent in argument, keen in satire, and generous in tone. Mr. Bright, more than most, hits the nail on the head at all times—on this occasion he excelled himself in this way. He had several nails for

the coffin of monopoly; and with remarkable ease he drove every one of them home. Sir George Clerk's was merely the office copy of Sir Robert Peel's speech.

In close connexion with the great debate stand two other matters which have also come under the notice of the House of Commons—the approaching famine in Ireland, and the interference, by peers, with Parliamentary elections. The first subject was brought forward by Mr. O'Connell, in a speech singularly temperate, free from exaggeration, and devoid of all political bitterness. His statements respecting the present condition of Ireland, and its immediate prospects, were most appalling, and they were substantially confirmed by Sir James Graham, who requested that the motion for a committee might be withdrawn, on his assurance that Government had made provision for the worst, and were fully confident of being able to meet the exigency. This request, after a few words from Lord John Russell, who backed it, and a Repeal speech from Mr. John O'Connell, who seemed to think that the best way to conciliate English favour was to tax England with every species of crime, was eventually acceded to. In the course of the week, Mr. Collett asked for a select committee to inquire into the recent instances of illegal interference on the part of peers with the election of members of the House of Commons. His speech, on the occasion, did not display all the power which the question obviously demands, and the chief part of it was read from manuscript. It was replied to by Sir R. Peel, who refused the committee, and who once more enacted the true sophist. There were no grounds, he contended, on which to found such a motion—none at least stronger than the honourable member's belief. The aristocracy ought to possess legitimate influence in the constitution of the House of Commons, and he hoped that the day might be far distant when that influence should be taken from them—in short, the Premier pursued the same line of argument which might have been adopted in defence of the corruption of Gatton and Old Sarum, proving, that whilst his position is changed in reference to the corn-laws, the man himself remains just what he was.

On Monday evening, Earl St. German's introduced to the House of Lords his new coercion bill for Ireland—new as to the time of its enactment—old enough as to the substance of its provisions. The increase of crime in certain districts of the sister isle was abundantly proved by his lordship. The insecurity of life, arising not from insurrectionary violence, but from private retaliation, in parts of that country, is but too evident. Strong measures it may be said, are needed, in order to arm the Executive with adequate power for putting down the frightful excesses referred to. And undoubtedly such measures will be effectual for a time, as they have been before, but unless immediately followed by others of amelioration, will do little else than drive the mischief deeper into the social constitution of the Irish people. This measure of Earl St. German's, as we have said, is one whose face will be recognised by all. It gives power to the Lord-Lieutenant to proclaim a disturbed district; to introduce into it an augmented police force at the expense of the inhabitants; to forbid their being abroad from sunset to sunrise, under pain of transportation for fifteen years; to make provision for the surviving family of any victims of outrage; and to derive the funds necessary for that purpose from the district so proclaimed. In answer to a question from Mr. O'Connell in the House of Commons, on Monday evening, Sir R. Peel announced that he intended to bring in a bill for providing compensation to tenants, in certain cases, on the termination of their holdings, for improvements made by them; a bill to amend the law in respect to the registration of voters, and the regulation of elections in Ireland, which would effect some change in the county franchise; and a bill for regulating the municipal franchise in Ireland, the object of which would be to place the municipal franchises of the two countries as nearly as possible on the same footing. Thus we have something like a promise, that amelioration shall go hand in hand with coercion. To what extent that promise will be redeemed remains to be seen.

The Lords have also had a debate on Ministers' money in Ireland, which, of course, they refused to give up, and a conversation on the electoral proceedings of the League, which, equally, of course, they view with strong disapprobation. But it is easier for them to prepare coercion bills for Ireland than for the middle classes of England, of whom the League may be said to be the embodiment. The conversation, therefore, terminated in no practical result.

The mysterious disease which has fastened upon the potato crop, and which sometime ago was thought to have abated, has broken out with fresh violence in several parts of Ireland. In some districts, it is said that the inhabitants have not a fortnight's supply of this staple article of food on hand; in others, fever, the usual concomitant of famine, is making rapid progress among the poorer orders of the population. Whether the debate on the commercial policy of Government is to go on for another fortnight, is what none can answer. The House of Commons has not yet been called upon to divide, even by a single voice; but, unless they make haste, famine will catch them ere they have made up their minds, and the sufferings of myriads will give point to all the arguments of the Free-traders, and hurry measures through Parliament with undue precipitation.

Electoral news has been of a stirring character this week. Westminster has returned General Sir de Lacy

Evans in place of Captain Rous, and Westminster prides itself upon its gain. General Evans is a thorough partisan of the Whigs—Captain Rous has, on more than one occasion, proved himself an independent member of the Conservative body. In regard to the great question now before the country they were both agreed. Upon what other question of national importance they differ, when that difference would affect the position of their leaders, it is difficult for us to divine. Evans' creed comes nearest to the popular mark—Rous's conduct has gone furthest towards independence. And in our judgment neither the one nor the other is a fitting representative for the city of Westminster. East Suffolk and Dorsetshire have, of course, returned thorough Protectionists without opposition. The election for the first was dull enough; that for the last was enlivened by a speech from Lord Ashley, more worthy of his fame as a philanthropist than any he has yet delivered. The noble lord would, undoubtedly, have had the show of hands at the nomination, had he allowed himself to be proposed; and there are not wanting men, well acquainted with the county, who affirm that he would certainly have been re-elected. The South Notts election, too, is a remarkable one. Lord Lincoln is the Duke of Newcastle's son; and the father, who always had peculiar notions of his right "to do what he wills with his own," has addressed a letter to the electors, denouncing his son's conduct, and calling upon the constituency to mark their sense of his change of opinion by rejecting him. The nomination took place on Saturday, and Lord Lincoln, after a spirited speech, obtained a show of hands in his favour. Our postscript will contain the result of the first day's poll.

We have only space further for calling attention to the address of J. Sturge, Esq., to the non-electors of Great Britain and Ireland, on the increase of our military establishments, and to the correspondence, contained in another column, from our friends at Jamaica and Guiana.

#### THE GROUND-SWELL.

"WOULD there were an end of it!" is the desire which every night's debate washes up higher and higher upon the shore of the public mind. The subject, interesting as it is in itself, is far from inexhaustible. Food and clothing, multiply them as you will, cannot be converted into other than they are—food and clothing. Very desirable they are to possess, but, when possessed even to superfluity, very inadequate to satisfy the wants of humanity. The talk of, the struggle for, the political action and reaction respecting, them, do no great things towards elevating the mind or enlarging the heart. Economical science, which busies itself mainly about these things, is but a very indifferent moral teacher. Men may bury their nobler aspirations under heaps of figures, and live among bundles of statistics till their own souls are as dry and sapless as Egyptian mummies. Urgent necessity has driven national attention, of late, upon this barren ground. Glad shall we be when the necessity ceases. We begin to be weary and impatient; and four or five months of intense excitement upon the question of the corn laws, coming upon the heels of eight years' incessant tuition, strike sparks of new significance out of the divine maxim—"Man does not live by bread alone."

For this reason, amongst others, we are far more interested in what will follow the settlement of this question than in the settlement itself. By us the tempest now raging in St. Stephens is little heeded, save as it will effect a purification of the atmosphere. We count less upon the gale, than upon the groundswell which will follow it. We are far from undervaluing Free-trade—but it is chiefly as an open door to higher and nobler questions that we prize it. There is something to come after the termination of this struggle, and we are apt enough to look over the struggle that we may catch a glimpse of that. We want to have done with corn, cotton, and sugar, that we may busy ourselves in something better—peace, liberty, and religion—want to have mind instead of matter for the grand object of popular effort. Leaving, therefore, our senators to their wordy warfare, and getting, if possible, beyond the noise produced by the clash of opinion in Parliament, we propose to look at some of the more immediate effects which this contest will produce, and to inquire how the friends of progress will be called upon, in all likelihood, to bear themselves.

The first step in conjecture may be taken, we think, without much hazard of tripping. The great Conservative party, riven asunder by commercial revolution, will no longer serve as the foundation of a Government. By the aid of Whigs and Free-traders Sir R. Peel will carry his present measures; but his victory will lay him open to instant defeat. The Whigs have no such insurmountable distaste for office, as to support a rival in it one moment beyond what is necessary for their own purpose—the Protectionists, galled by a betrayal, as they imagine, of their own interests, are known to pant for revenge. The Premier, keen-eyed to future probabilities, will probably anticipate the political doom in store for him, and, having achieved the freedom of commerce, will instantly retire. The reconstruction of his party will be impossible, and there is reason enough to doubt whether he would attempt it, even if sure it could be accomplished. The Whigs, then, must return to power, with such accession of strength as they may obtain from the remnants of the Peel party. A general election will ensue, destined to turn, we fear,



not upon any commanding principles of policy, but for the most part upon the question of "Who shall govern?" Upon the issue of that election, much—we had almost said everything—will depend.

Indications there are, neither few nor uncertain, that Ireland will be Lord John Russell's *cheval-battaille*. To this we have no objection. We take it for granted, moreover, that he contemplates legislative measures for that country which his own supporters will designate "broad, liberal, and comprehensive," and which the public will accept as fruits of sound statesmanship. Two things, however, we believe, may be confidently predicted of Whig Irish policy—that the basis of it will be aristocratic, and that the purport of it will be conservative of the church-establishment principle. Not the remotest hope have we that Lord John and his colleagues will attempt any measures, the pervading spirit of which shall be, the recognition of man as man, or of religion as religion. That some further ameliorations of law will be obtained under Whig rule, we cannot doubt—that some gain will result to the people from another change of government, is likely enough—but that the general drift of legislation will continue what it always has been under our present aristocratic system we think equally certain. Expediency will not be abandoned for right—God's truth will not be regarded as having higher claims than man's convenience.

With such prospects before us, what is our first duty? We answer, to teach, and as we teach, to organise, *the public*. Our rulers, we fear, are not so far behind society as we are apt to suspect. In the long run, Governments are about as patriotic as the people deserve. The grand impediment in the way of progress is popular ignorance or popular indifference. Were we, as a people, enlightened enough to see, and disinterested enough to pursue, desirable reforms, we could make the worst machinery work out the result. There is nothing impossible to a well-informed and virtuous public. To create healthy opinion, to lead it forth to exercise, to accustom it to discipline and self-reliance, is the primary obligation devolving upon all who identify with their country's welfare the legislative embodiment of certain leading principles of political morality. They must look less to strategy than they have done. Their efforts must be directed, more steadily than they have been, to the diffusion of knowledge, and to the inculcation of becoming practice. They will then tell most powerfully on the Legislature, when they have most successfully applied themselves to the teaching of the empire.

We are the more anxious that the work of education should be set about with spirit, because the elements of political society will soon pass into the liquescent state, and will take their form, for many years to come, from the pressure applied to them before they again become fixed and solidified. Activity is never more necessary than previously to the disruption of great political parties. At such times, earnest exertion tells with tenfold its usual effect. By preparing with promptitude to occupy the ground which the Free-traders are about to vacate, with questions of principle rather than questions of party, we may do enough to prevent an infinitude of mischief, even if unable immediately to accomplish much positive good. That may be efficient to scare the Whigs from actual evil, which would be wholly inadequate to drive them on to the adoption of sound principles. We shall thus gain time for putting truth in contact with the public mind. The storm, we say, will be succeeded by a ground-swell—it lies with us to choose whether we will profit by it, or whether it shall upset us.

#### BLEEDING AND WARM WATER.

POOR Ireland! evermore doomed to the Sangrado system of cure—bleeding and warm water—severity and want—Coercion bills and famine!

We suppose it will be unfashionable in us to question the necessity of the strong measure now in its passage through the House of Lords. Nevertheless, we do doubt it.

It is obvious enough from the evidence laid before us, that the crimes which now disfigure certain portions of Ireland, originate in social, rather than political hardships. Most of them may be traced directly home to the relation in which the law places the tenant to his landlord. One may lay his finger, therefore, in each instance, upon the cause of crime. It is individual conduct, on the part of landlords, which prompts to revenge. Whilst general measures, therefore, of amelioration are yet on the stocks, designed to furnish a permanent remedy to this frightful disease, and whilst security of life calls for some temporary expedient, which, to be effectual, must trespass upon some rights of citizenship, why not make free, for a season, with the rights of property, in preference to the liberties of the subject, and enact, that until larger measures are adopted by the Legislature, no tenant shall be compelled to quit his holding, without his consent freely given? This would be a present remedy, at all events—inexpensive, soothing, and preparatory to something better.

We think we hear the outcry which such a proposition would make. Well! let it expend itself, and then let us see wherein it is inferior to Earl St. German's proposal.

It is, we admit, a rude interference with the rights of property, only to be justified by the emergency of the occasion. In some instances it might occasion annoyance—in others, it might entail loss. It might even—and here we concede the most power-

ful objection which can be urged against it—it might be drawn into a precedent, and point the way to a permanent curtailment of individual freedom. But is not Earl St. German's bill open to similar but graver charges. To be kept within doors from sunset to sunrise—a prisoner at home more than half one's time—is not this a harsh interference with the liberty of the subject, operating not in individual instances merely, but upon every soul within a proclaimed district? What annoyance to a gentleman wishing to rid himself of a troublesome tenant can equal a public annoyance like this? What the pecuniary losses of such an one, compared with the burdens which the new Coercion bill imposes upon those amongst whom it is put in force? And as to the danger of precedents, is there no danger of that in the proposed measure? Why, it has no limiting clause whatever, and once enacted, it may remain in force until Ireland has power enough to repeal it for herself. We demur, then, to the necessity of this measure. If rights must be set aside for a time, in order to the security of life and property in Ireland, let the landlords take their turn of privation; and it may, peradventure, teach them to be more considerate in the exercise of their power.

We would, with all deference, submit to our rulers, what is like to be the moral effect upon the Irish mind of this frequent, ready, and apparently cordial, resort to stringent coercive measures. Every repetition of these harsh experiments does something—not a little—to obliterate any remaining sense of respect for law and government. The provisions most essential to the maintenance of order, come to be confounded with heartless tyranny. The very boons of the Legislature are received with sullen suspicion. The successful malefactor is elevated by popular sympathy into the local hero. Authorities are despised, or hated, or opposed, not on account of what they do, but of what they are. All measures of amelioration lose their healing effect. The spirit, chained, but not subdued, becomes doubly irritated. Fresh fetters are required—stronger and harsher appliances on every fresh occasion. Even when removed, the memory of them rankles for years in the heart. All this experience has proved again and again. And yet, when all is quiet, no remedy is devised—when assassination stalks abroad, we fall back once more upon coercion—and noble lords, as if doing an act of self-denying patriotism, pride themselves in consenting to sacrifice other people's liberty, in order to crush the crimes which originate in their own determined negligence.

There are quacks in the political world as well as in the social—but of all quacks which can be mentioned, we have the greatest contempt for those whose genius can prescribe no remedy but *bleeding and warm water*.

#### IS MR. BRIGHT TO ENVY AGAIN?

LAST week an organ of what is called the Liberal party, fulminated an anathema against any who should teach or maintain that an amendment should be moved on the Minister's proposal on the subject of the Corn-Laws. Any so offending, was to be treated as an enemy. Since then, the "League" announces that an amendment is to be moved by Mr. Villiers. The fulmination will now probably be against whoever shall maintain there ought to be no amendment. The Anti-corn-law public are to be like the chorus of peasants in the Frenchman's mock opera, who are told "Sing, dance, show your distress," when the prince of the story is dead, and "Sing, dance, show your delight," when he comes to life again. The public will use good counsel in their choice, without being hurried either way by the "forcible feeblers" who assume the office of whippers-in.

The reason of this change of plan, is the Minister's intimation that he will not withdraw his measure if the amendment is carried; in other words, that he wants to carry the immediate repeal if only somebody else will force the alternative on him. The prospect of a stride towards immediate repeal, has overbalanced the trepidations on the subject of a Dissolution.

The attempts made in various quarters to impress the terror of a Dissolution, are not without their interest as studies. One danger suggested is, that it would make a great hubbub, and for practical ends be useless. There is a growing party in the country, who think that great hubbubs are the things practically useful. They believe that a great hubbub such as an election constitutes, is the very way by which the spirit is got up and kept together, that ends in bringing down an abuse and others that are akin to it. The dread of a great hubbub therefore is not addressed to this party, but to those who are anxious that abuse should be maintained as long as possible, and at last removed in snuggery. But the great fear suggested is this; that it would excite attention to the deficiencies of the Reform Bill, and so bring on a demand for a re-Reform. Of course the interested on this subject, will be moved according to the way their interests may lie.

One hint is given among others, which is worth noting in case it should turn out to be a grain of mustard-seed. The Protectionists are warned to beware of such a thing as "a new Reform Bill movement, not impossibly with Peel at its head." People do not put such things in print, without a certain degree of belief that there is something in them. Considering what one man can do when he will, and another set of men won't do when they can, there is matter of grave reflection conveyed under this intimation. What more improbability is there in such a thing being reduced to act, than in William

Pitt and the Duke of Richmond being found engaged in a similar plan in times gone by? It is not further now, to the discovery that the representation of the different classes of the community must be brought into some kind of harmony with their power, than it was a few years ago to the avowal of the folly of restrictions upon trade. The good sense that can penetrate the one, is competent to the other; and who can say, that Mr. Bright shall not have to envy again?

#### ADDRESS OF THE COMPLETE SUFFRAGE UNION, BIRMINGHAM.

TO THE NON-ELECTORS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

FRIENDS AND FELLOW COUNTRYMEN,—

The recent strong and general expression of public condemnation against the enforcement of the unchristian and cruelly unjust Militia Act, has been followed by an announcement of the intention of Government to abandon the compulsory ballot. It may therefore be expected, that the measures about to be taken will, if possible, be so shaped as to prevent the determined opposition with which the old Militia Act was threatened. In the whole circumstances, however, there is much which calls for your serious attention; and we are induced now to address you, because the military system has an important bearing on the extension of the elective franchise.

Every unprejudiced mind must have seen, in the good sense and correct feeling you have displayed in opposing the contemplated measure, a fresh evidence of the strength of your claims to enfranchisement, and a proof that you are not only qualified to make a proper use of your political rights, but that you are in advance of many who already possess them, in your zealous and effective opposition to measures which are subversive both of justice and religion. We are anxious, however, at the present moment, to draw your particular attention to the proposed increase of our military forces. Though a standing army in time of peace is unconstitutional, and has existed scarcely 200 years, yet it has been increased from 91,750 in 1822, to 139,480 in 1844; and yet Government has now determined to add to it from 10,000 to 20,000 men, besides the militia, amounting to 42,000! So long as the supporters of unjust laws are enabled to hire men to uphold them by brute force, so long only can those laws operate. To you, therefore, who feel that your political right are unjustly withheld, the question whether this enormous addition to the army shall be permitted, is one of vital interest. You are, we conceive, especially called upon to refuse to enter the ranks, and to use all your influence with your friends and neighbours to induce them to refuse also. It is generally understood, that the resort to the ballot was suggested by the difficulty experienced in obtaining recruits; but the wide-spread determination which has lately shown itself, neither to serve in the militia nor pay for a substitute, leaves the Government in as great a difficulty as ever. So long, however, as the people submit to pay the money with which our rulers bribe men to enter the army, and men are to be found who will accept the bribe, the war system will continue, and its profits and emoluments will be retained by the aristocracy, while upon the working classes will fall its attendant sufferings and misery.

Our earnest appeal to you, therefore, is, that you will be firm and inflexible in refusing to be hired, at any price, to learn the art of wholesale murder, and that you will do all in your power to render the profession of arms as disreputable and odious\* as it is criminal. Should the repugnance to enlist become universal, your political rights are secured. No statesman will then attempt to continue a system by which the poor man, for no other reason than because he is poor, is deprived of his citizenship—a system which gives to property, and not to man, the elective franchise, from which has sprung innumerable evils, the burden of which rests upon your shoulders, and which maintains its existence now, and can only continue to do so, by the power of the sword.

Though individually we hold the opinion, that all war is unchristian, our present object is to show the bearing of a standing army on the question of complete suffrage; which we are associated to promote. In recommending this momentous subject to your serious consideration, we earnestly desire that no man who loves liberty himself, or who would secure it for his fellow-countrymen, will be induced, under any temptation whatever, to identify himself with the military profession.

JOSEPH STURGE, Chairman.

Birmingham, 2nd month (February) 16, 1846.

THE GAUGE COMMISSIONERS have published their report. They recommend, that the narrow gauge (4 feet 8½ inches) be declared by the legislature the gauge to be adopted on all railways now in the progress of construction, or that may hereafter be sanctioned by Parliament; that no railway company be permitted to alter the gauge except by express consent of the Legislature; that in order to complete the narrow gauge communication from the North of England to the Southern coast, a narrow gauge junction-line be promoted from the proposed Oxford and Rugby to the South-western railway. They also express a wish that some equitable means should be found to establish an entire uniformity of gauge. When it is considered that the estimated expense of altering the existing broad gauge to narrow gauge lines, including the alteration or substitution of locomotives and carrying stock, is only £1,080,000 it is to be hoped that this suggestion will not be lost upon Parliament.

\* If anything were required to prove the degradation and hardships of the life of a common soldier and sailor, even in a time of profound peace, it is furnished by the recent official publication of the commitments to prison and corporal punishments in the army and navy, printed by order of the House of Commons, from which it appears, that in the five years, from 1839 to 1843, the corporal punishments inflicted on British soldiers, sailors, and marines, were 14,813; and that the commitments of soldiers to prison, during the same period, were 41,363, equal to one-third of the British army, while the commitments from the general population of Great Britain, during the same period, was only 1 in 116.



## FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

## INDIA.

## VICTORIES OVER THE SIKHS.

The extraordinary express from Marseilles, in anticipation of the Bombay mail of the 17th of January, brings some of the important details of the three actions which took place on the 18th, the 21st, and the 22nd of December, imperfect intelligence of which has before been published.

The conflicts took place at Moodkee and Ferozeshuhur, about twenty miles from Ferozepore. The official accounts have not yet been published.

The Sikhs having passed the Sutlej in great numbers on the 12th, 13th, and 14th of December, proceeded to attack the post of Ferozepore, which was held by Sir John Littler with about 7,000 men. After some feints, the Sikh army finding the Governor-general and the Commander-in-chief were hastening to support the Ferozepore division at the rate of thirty miles per day, moved off to intercept them.

In the evening of the 18th, the Governor-general, with the British army, after a long march, had reached Moodkee and encamped, when the Sikh army, 30,000 strong, came hurrying forward and attacked. A short but severe conflict ensued; the Sikhs retired, leaving their guns to the British. Amongst the killed was General Sir John M'Caskill. Sir Robert Sale was wounded, and died subsequently.

The 19th and 20th were spent by both armies in burying their dead and in procuring reinforcements.

Sir John Littler, at the head of 5,000 men, joined the British on the 21st, about sixteen miles from the camp. The British army then formed itself into four divisions, the right under the command of Sir Hugh Gough, the centre commanded by Major-General W. R. Gilbert, the left by Sir J. Littler, and the rear by Sir Harry Smith. The Sikhs were commanded by Tej Singh, and had formed intrenchments in a jungle country, which rendered the march of infantry exceedingly difficult. The Sikhs have long been remarkable for their artillery; they were provided with heavy guns, which did great execution. Sir John Littler failed in his attack on their position. General Gilbert was successful. The first position of the enemy was taken: the darkness of the night prevented the continuance of the conflict. The British troops bivouacked on the ground. The Sikhs found out where the Commander-in-chief and the Governor-general had taken their station, and they opened a heavy fire on it. The British troops rose up and drove them off.

On the morning of the 22nd, the fight was renewed, and General Gilbert stormed several parts of the enemy's position, although every effort had been made during the night to strengthen it. Thirty large guns were taken. The British soldiers afterwards began to collect their wounded, and to bury the dead; when large bodies of cavalry and of the camel corps, with swivels, attacked them. The British artillery and cavalry had retired towards Ferozepore, but the infantry drove the enemy back three several times at the point of the bayonet. The contest of the 22nd appears to have been carried on by General Gilbert and by the Governor-general, who headed the centre. The Sikhs, from their acquaintance with the country, possessed great advantages, of which they profited to the utmost. They worked mines before their intrenchments, and in their front position, which they blew up on the approach of the British, and destroyed hundreds.

The valour of the British troops caused dismay amongst the majority of the turbulent Khalsa soldiery. Some of them attempted to fortify their positions between Ferozepore and Hureeka Ghat, the principal passage of the river on the road to Lahore; but they soon abandoned them. Tej Singh, their commander, had an interview with the Governor-general, who refused to enter into any terms until the British were under the walls of Lahore. Tej Singh retired with some of the Sikhs to an island, where he was threatened by the British and by his own countrymen. At length the whole of the Sikhs retired from the British territory, and on the 31st of December the Governor-general issued a proclamation of which the following is the material portion:—

Foreign Department, Ferozepore, Dec. 31, 1845.

The Lahore Government has, without provocation, or any declaration of hostilities, and notwithstanding the existence of a treaty of amity and alliance, made war upon the British Government. A large Sikh army has invaded the British territories, which has been repulsed and driven across the Sutlej with the loss of ninety-one pieces of their artillery, now in our possession. It becomes necessary, therefore, for the British Government to take measures for punishing this unprovoked aggression, and for preventing in future similar acts of treachery by the Government and army of the Punjab. The British Government considers it right now to call upon all natives and inhabitants of Hindostan who have taken service under the Lahore Government, to quit that service, and place themselves under the orders of the Governor-general of India.

All natives of Hindostan who, after the promulgation of this proclamation, continue in the service of the enemy, will be considered to have forfeited all claim to British protection, and will be treated as traitors to their country, and enemies of the British Government.

The preceding document is said to have been founded upon the conduct of a regiment of Bengal cavalry, which refused to charge the Sikhs, and otherwise disgraced themselves during the battle.

The conduct of some of the protected Sikh chiefs having been found culpable, they have been severely punished. The Rajah of Putteala was hanged on a tree for treachery. The Rajah of Ladwa, on the 4th of January, approached Loodiana, where he burned the European barracks; but it was expected that he would be driven back.

The Sikh troops, having been disappointed of their plunder and driven out of the British territory, doubts are entertained of their uniting to fight another battle. A party under Runjoor Singh has approached Loodiana, as if desirous of plundering there, but nothing was known of the results of their movements. The Queen-mother has, it is said, encouraged the troops to fight in order to get rid of their turbulent rule.

It was reported at Bombay at the departure of the

mail that the Governor-general had resolved to maintain his position within the British territory, and not to make any attacks upon the Sikhs until the expedition against Moulton, which was preparing in Scinde, under the orders of Sir Charles Napier, had begun operations.

Letters, dated Hyderabad, in Scinde, on the 7th of January, state, that there was great activity in the preparations for sending the troops forward. The Bombay Government had exerted itself in sending various regiments, and river steamers, flat boats, &c., so that it was expected that Sir Charles Napier would be soon able to make a powerful diversion by attacking the Sikhs in the neighbourhood of Moulton.

Nothing is known with certainty of the steps to be next taken by the Governor-general, when he shall have collected upon the frontier the forces which ought to have been there on the 1st of December. From his proclamation, however, he would seem to contemplate something like a restoration of a native Government in the Punjab.

We make a few unconnected extracts from the correspondence published by the daily papers relative to the sanguinary engagements:—

The total number of men said to have been brought by the Sikhs into the actions at Ferozeshuhur is 50,000, while the British force only amounted to 20,000. Besides this disparity, we were in artillery dreadfully over-matched. The Sikhs are stated to have had upwards of 100 pieces of cannon, amongst which were several sixty-four, thirty-two, twenty-four, and eighteen-pounders, while the British only numbered fifty, most of which were six-pounders. The enemy's guns were most efficiently served, and committed fearful havoc. Our horse artillery suffered severely, the harness being cut up, and many of the horses killed. No authorised list of the killed and wounded has as yet appeared, but when I tell you that the detail made up from private information, and which is still incomplete, gives the names of no less than sixty-two officers killed and thirty-eight wounded, while upwards of 3,000 men, native and European, have been either slain or disabled, you will be able to form some idea of the terrific carnage which has occurred. The gallant and devoted Sir R. Sale, Sir John M'Caskill, Major Broadfoot (the Governor-general's agent on the north-west frontier), and Major Fitzroy Somerset (Sir H. Hardinge's military secretary), head the long and melancholy catalogue of those who have fallen "to rise no more."

Until the publication of the official despatches describing the late military operations, it will be difficult, and would be unfair, to offer any decided opinion upon the tactics of the British force. People argue from the enormous loss that grave errors were committed, and Sir Hugh Gough, whose reputation as a strategist was somewhat tarnished at Maharajpore, is singled out to bear the blame. It seems obvious, however, from the general order given in a former part of my letter, that though Sir Hugh may have been the ostensible commander-in-chief, the Governor-general was the real one; and consequently, if there have been errors, Sir Henry ought to take the responsible of them. Another writer on the same subject says, and there cannot be a doubt in the mind of any soldier who understands his profession that to the persevering energy of those in partial command, to the gallant example of our officers, and to the bravery of our troops alone, are we indebted for so glorious a victory gained against such fearful odds."

"There is no doubt whatever that the Governor-general contemplates crossing the Sutlej and marching to Lahore. For the present he remains at Ferozepore, in order that the different regiments still marching from various quarters towards the frontier may have time to join, and the army be well supplied with stores and ammunition. An enormous siege train is also in preparation at Delhi, which is expected shortly to be moved up; and, according to report, the entire "army of the Sutlej" is likely to enter the Punjab about the beginning of next month. While its operations are confined to the plains it will carry everything before it, but nearly half of the country is an alpine region, and amongst the hills of Jamoo and Kangra, studded as they are with strong forts, and the stupendous mountain ranges which encircle Cashmere, our troops may encounter obstacles which at present are little dreamt of. You may suppose that the question, "What will be done with the Punjab?" is now eagerly asked on all sides. I confess I doubt the wisdom of appropriation, independent of the question of right; but the general opinion at home will be the reverse of this. In fact, I look upon the Punjab as already doomed; and I presume it will be made a fourth Presidency in connexion with Scinde, and have an army and a civil service to itself, like its neighbours. Touching the army, it is clear there must be an increase, and that speedily; the Punjab could not be held without it."

Among the killed was Dr. Hoffmeister, in medical attendance upon Prince Waldemar, of Prussia, who is said to have been in the midst of the battles of the 18th, 21st, and 22nd. It is said the young Prince narrowly escaped being killed.

## JAMAICA.

(From our Correspondent.)

January 19, 1846.

The Hon. House of Assembly has just closed its labours; but of the character of its Acts we can only guess from the incorrect and cursory reports of the debates given in the Kingston papers. I fear they will not belie the ancient character of the House. It is a matter of great difficulty to obtain a copy of any Act in its passage through the Assembly; and even when the Laws or Acts are printed, it is hardly possible to obtain a knowledge of them, except by borrowing the book from a magistrate. Our friends in England, therefore, must not think us dilatory because our condemnation of any oppressive Act appears late. We cannot avoid it. One gross oppression upon the Dissenters has been perpetrated by the House in the last session. The "Clergy Act," providing for the Episcopal Church, was passed five years ago, for a period of seven years. It is now renewed and enlarged—giving increased salaries, and augmenting the number of curates and others. What its details are we cannot yet tell, but the crowning point is, that its duration is for fourteen years! The Baptist Western Union has prepared and forwarded a petition for its dis-

allowance to her Majesty in Council. This Act was introduced into the House of Assembly by Mr. Taylor, a Wesleyan—a steward (I believe) of the Wesleyan church in Kingston! And upon surprise being expressed by a member of the House at this strange circumstance, the honourable gentleman declared, that he and John Wesley and the Wesleyans were not Dissenters, and felt it to be their duty to support the Established Church. His conduct will soon be exposed in the island press. In the meantime we shall be glad if you will let all liberal Wesleyans know what is done by their own brethren in Jamaica, and will have the question properly settled, whether Wesleyans are Dissenters or not?

Another most interesting and extraordinary event has transpired at Montego Bay, the whole account of which is too long for a full relation at this time. I happen to know that every particular will be published in the *Baptist Herald*, and perhaps in a separate form. Captain Frisby, who eight years ago took away two coloured persons, under engagements to send them back, and is supposed to have sold them into slavery, came two weeks ago to Montego Bay, in an American vessel. He was immediately known, and seized as a felon. His examination before the magistrates occupied about eight days, and he is now remanded for further examination. The most remarkable circumstances are connected with this event; and not the least wonderful, was the discovery that he had a black man in irons on board his brig. This man he had, in a very suspicious way, engaged at St. Thomas; and after treating him with the most brutal cruelty, kept him in irons for several weeks, while in port at Hayti, for no other reason, according to the log-book, than for fear he should get away. It is very evident that he intended to sell the man, who is a free-born American. This fact caused immense excitement in the town, but by the interference of certain popular persons, no tumult has ensued. A legal stratagem has been adopted to prevent the man going back to the vessel, and the night before yesterday I travelled with him into the interior, and secreted him where he will remain in safety for the present. He told the court he would rather have his head cut off than return to the brig. This matter will be very interesting, and the rescued sailor will excite much feeling on behalf of the poor American slaves. It is another specimen of the southern Jonathan's "free and enlightened" principles.

## BRITISH GUIANA.

(From our Correspondent.)

George Town, Demerara, January 18, 1846.

At the request of our mutual friend \* \* \*, I take up my pen to inform you of the present state of public affairs in this province. The estates are, generally speaking, suffering for want of rain, which will probably effect the crop of the present year. The labourers are working steadily in the estates; and could the managers only keep it constantly in mind, that they now have to deal with British freemen, affairs would go on much more smoothly, and a greater amount of labour might be obtained from the people. An agitation has existed during the greater part of last year, for the object of obtaining a representative legislature, similar to that enjoyed by Jamaica, Barbadoes, Antigua, or St. Christopher's; and a public meeting was held in this city some months ago to forward this object. But the agitation was confined to the city and public prints; nor would any attempts have been made to carry it into the country districts, if our planter legislature had allowed things to remain quiet, until her Majesty's Ministers decided on our claims. In place of this, they passed some laws, and initiated others, of so coercive and objectionable a character, as to render a more active opposition imperative. The consequence is, that several public meetings have been held in the rural districts, at which petitions to her Majesty have been agreed to, praying that these unconstitutional laws might be disallowed, and that her Majesty would express her royal displeasure at Governor Light having initiated and allowed such laws to be passed. You will see full particulars in your files of papers by this mail; but the exasperated feelings of the people on the subject of "the Thirteen Stripes Act" is but feebly set forth. I have attended these meetings, and have been much amongst the peasantry, and am strongly of opinion that any attempt to carry such a law into operation would lead to universal disorder, great loss of property, and to the total ruin of many proprietors of estates; yet those infatuated men, our planter legislature, do not seem to be aware of the danger of their measures. This above-named most impolitic and objectionable bill was read a second time in our Court of Policy last week, without any member objecting to it; and it is supposed that it will become law at the Court's next sitting.

Within the last fortnight much indignation has been expressed against the Reformers, for causing, as their opponents said, a strike or cessation of labour on the part of the peasantry on the east coast. On investigating this very serious charge, it turns out that some of the managers found fault with their labourers for attending the public meeting at "New Orange Nassau," and declared, that in consequence of their doing so, they would in future only pay them two bits and a half a day for their labour. The people, forewarned by the leaders of the reform movement to be doubly cautious not to commit themselves, or give their employers any excuse for taking them before a magistrate, behaved admirably; quietly took their wages to date, and retired from the properties; but positively refused to return to their work for less wages than usual. Thus five days' work was totally lost. The managers were at length obliged to give way, and actually solicit the return of the people, who are now working assiduously, with increased knowledge of their power to coerce, should a perseverance with those



objectionable laws, or other causes, render such a course indispensably necessary. The total loss is estimated at two thousand five hundred days' labour! I said before, that the people are working well and steadily; but yet some estates find it much more difficult to obtain labour than others; and this is particularly the case where the manager happens to be passionate, rude, haughty, and unbending. The people, fully aware of their own ignorance of law, look for little sympathy, or even justice, at the hands of the authorities, and show a laudable anxiety to avoid coming in contact with persons likely to quarrel with them. Indeed, this feeling of insecurity is not confined to the peasantry, but exists to a great extent amongst the well-informed portions of the community, who look up to our Supreme Court of Justice as their only safeguard and protection against the fearful tyranny of our official and planter factions, now strangely united!

A rumour has got into circulation which is well calculated to alarm the friends of justice, and those especially who are obnoxious to the dominant powers. It is asserted, on apparently good authority, that an attempt is being made to get the Hon. William Arrindell, a planter!—our present Attorney-general—appointed as our Chief Justice, Chief Justice Bent, who is very old, going home in June. A more objectionable appointment, or one more opposed to the wishes of the inhabitants, could not well be made. Mr. Arrindell is a lawyer who has chopped and changed about in his public opinions and career in every imaginable way. He is haughty, arrogant, and vindictive—feared by many, respected by few, trusted by none!—no, not even by his own party or nearest intimates. Although Mr. A. is a lawyer, he is far from being the man of consummate ability the Governor now wishes the authorities at Downing-street to consider him. To him has been entrusted the task of carrying out a change in our system, called Law Reforms, which has resulted in much confusion and uncertainty, great loss to suitors, and disappointment and dissatisfaction to the colonists in general, the lawyers excepted! These law reforms are found at times impracticable; and only yesterday our clever and esteemed First Puisne Judge Downie declared, on the bench, that "there is not a day that those law reforms do not present some impediment to the administration of justice in this Court;" and the Second Puisne Judge Finbrou added, "a man is out of the colony a month, and his property is taken possession of," alluding to sect. 10 of the Administrator-general's Act—one of Arrindell's law reforms. The general feeling appears to be, that there is only one individual a member of our bar, whose appointment to the bench would be judicious, or who would be likely to give satisfaction. This is Mr. Furlonge, late Attorney-general. This gentleman was not sufficiently pliable to our planter oligarchy, who, after buying our Governor Light, with a salary of £5,000 sterling a year, and house, determined, *nolens volens*, to get rid of the Attorney-general, whom they could not purchase! The Governor took part against him, and preferred secret charges to Lord Stanley. Many months elapsed before Mr. Furlonge could get information as to the nature of the charges. These, I believe, he has rebutted to the satisfaction of Lord Stanley, but his lordship having removed him on the *ex parte* statement of the Governor, has taken no step to make amends for the hasty injustice. Mr. Furlonge is generally esteemed, leads a quiet, retired life, mixes little with the community, has never taken part in local politics, and was, a short time ago, without solicitation or interference on his part, elected a member of the College of Financial Representatives, against all the power and influence of the Executive Government, the Legislature, the two banks, and the leading planters. If this gentleman is not appointed it is to be hoped that her Majesty's Government will appoint some gentleman from home; all we require is, that he is a good lawyer, and an honest, incorruptible man, who will not join any party, but, by keeping aloof from each, enable himself to judge all cases disinterestedly. From the foregoing you will imagine that our Governor is not popular: he is despised and detested by all parties! On his last appearance before the peasantry in Barbice they hissed him; and such, or worse, would be his reception were he to go among them to-morrow. He sacrificed the interests of the people on every opportunity; and even the planters, whose tool he is, laugh and jest at his imbecility; nor is there a member of his Government, or of the planter legislature, that possesses the confidence of the community, either in the city or out of it.

I regret to inform you, that Mr. Ketley met with a serious accident on the 15th. On returning to town from Mahica, his horse took fright, he jumped out, and the wheel of the gig passing over his left leg broke it near the ankle. He is at Victoria, and is doing well.

A REFORMER.

#### FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

CASSIUS M. CLAY IN NEW YORK.—This dauntless champion of human freedom addressed a vast audience in the New York Tabernacle, on Monday evening last. The multitude was enchained for two hours by his burning eloquence as he delineated the character of slavery. At the conclusion of his address, the following resolutions were read by Horace Greely, and passed by acclamation, with six unanimous cheers for Cassius M. Clay and the freedom of the press:—

Resolved—That we regard the destruction of the true American press by a mob at Lexington, Ky., as a direct attack on the rights of free speech and the rights of man, and that the authors of that outrage are deserving of the severest reprehension.

Resolved—That we tender to Cassius M. Clay our fervent gratitude for his struggles and sacrifices in the great cause of universal freedom, and we trust his devotion will yet be crowned with the amplest and most gratifying triumph.

Resolved—That we are deeply indebted to Mr. Clay for his address this evening in favour of the great principles of justice and liberty, and we assure him that our ardent sympathy will attend him in all his future efforts in behalf of universal emancipation.—*New York Evangelist*.

THE PEACE MOVEMENT IN AMERICA.—A meeting was held at the Temple, in Portsmouth, on the 19th of January, to listen to addresses from the clergymen of the town, upon peace. Six gentlemen, Messrs. Peabody, Clark, Hiley, Addams, Kitton, and Miller, present; and all addressed the meeting. These ministers, belonging to five different denominations, were united and earnest in proclaiming war as without the authority of, and in opposition to, the teaching and example of Christ. They distinctly recognised it as a plain and indispensable duty of their office, to rebuke the war spirit, and treated the subject in its religious and moral bearings. We hope the clergymen in other towns will follow the example of those in Portsmouth.—*Massachusetts Christian Citizen*.

#### THE PEACE AND ANTI-MILITIA MOVEMENT.

##### GREAT MEETING AT MANCHESTER.

(Abridged from the *Manchester Times*.)

A public meeting was held at the Free Trade-hall, on Tuesday evening, "to consider the war system in all its bearings, and especially with reference to the intended increase of the army and navy, and the enrolment of the militia." It was an exceedingly large gathering, probably not less than 6,000 or 7,000 persons were present. The galleries were well filled with respectable persons, amongst whom was a large sprinkling of the gentler sex; the platform was filled with some hundreds of the more influential gentlemen composing the Peace Society; whilst the body of the vast hall was closely packed with working men. The Rev. William McKerrow took the chair, as per advertisement, and amongst the most prominent of the gentlemen surrounding him were Joseph Sturge, Esq., of Birmingham, E. P. Hood, Esq., the Rev. Dr. Massie, the Rev. Dr. Beard, Mr. John Bowes, and the Rev. Mr. Griffin.

The CHAIRMAN in opening the proceedings said: I have been told that we can do no good by holding these peace meetings: I have been told that the mass of society will not be influenced by this movement. Your presence, my friends—this crowded meeting—gives the answer [cheers]. I am satisfied that you would not have come if you had not been opposed to the military system. It is delightful to think of the progress this question has made. Why, in my boyhood, I was religiously taught to hate the French. I was led to believe that one Englishman or one Scotchman could put to death three or four Frenchmen [laughter]. I thought it was our duty to render thanks to God when some fatal battle-field had been won, and some 10,000 of our fellow-beings had been stretched in death on the ensanguined field of victory [hear, hear]. I remember when our churches and our pulpits were desecrated by meetings to return thanks to the God of battles for the victories he had given us—as if He could take part or pleasure in these sanguinary and unchristian contests! [shame.] But let us be thankful that these times are passing away, and that men are no longer thought to be natural enemies merely because separated by some little range of mountains, or some narrow arm of the sea [applause]. I think, my friends, the time has come when we should settle these national jealousies and national quarrels not by the sword, but by reason, and that instead of killing the oppressor, we should employ reason and argument to shame him out of the wrong he would inflict. I think the time is come when, instead of an immense army, we should endeavour to collect a congress of nations to settle these questions and disputes by arbitration [applause]. I was glad to see so many friends at the meeting in the Corn-exchange the other night hold up their hands for that excellent and friendly address of my friend, Dr. Massie, to our brethren on the other side the Atlantic. I believe that these expressions of feeling will do good on both sides the water; and that, if you only satisfy Government that you wish to remain at peace with all the nations of the world, and that you desire to work for your bread and prosecute the arts of civilisation and commerce, and to pursue your own independent and righteous course irrespective of what other nations may be disposed to do, it will be difficult to kindle the seeds of war in any part of the world, or to get kings, queens, or cabinets longer to carry on these wars which have desolated so many countries in times past—in prosecuting which we have spent such heaps of treasure—and in the course of which we have deprived so many millions of people of existence [loud cheers]. The rev. chairman concluded by reading a statement of the different wars in which this country had been engaged, and the cost of these wars—the last war alone having cost us 750 millions of money, and having been attended with the sacrifice of two millions of lives: whilst all we had gained by it was an immense amount of taxation, and an amount of suffering and degradation among the people which it would take years to remove.

Mr. E. P. HOOD moved the first resolution:—

That all war is at variance with the doctrines and precepts of Christianity, which teach us to love our enemies, to forgive injuries, and to do good even to them that hate us; and is opposed to the true interests of mankind.

He called upon the meeting individually to set their face against the system of war, and be determined to suffer in their own persons the consequences rather than become a soldier, or find a substitute as a soldier—even with the temptation of a bounty, if it should be offered.

The Rev. Dr. BEARD, in seconding the resolution, said: I am not surprised that a degree of apathy should prevail on this question. It is only some few years since I have had very strong convictions upon this point [hear, hear]. Why, sir, how are we all brought up? How is the infant, how is the school-boy trained? We are trained to sights and sounds all of which have a martial character and a martial hue, and which tend to make us think that there is something grand and something noble in the trade of a soldier. It is not very surprising that we should have

this feeling when some of our ministers of religion—even men who should recollect that Christ was the minister of peace, and not of war—are in the habit of encouraging it. Why, are they not pledged throughout the country to sustain the system [hear, hear]? Ay, sir, there has been such a thing as blessing—but God will not give his blessing—there has been such a thing as blessing the colours of our troops [hear, hear, and shame!] I am glad, I say, to see so little apathy now. The people who have finished one great work are about to commence another [loud cheers].

Mr. JOHN BOWES, in supporting the resolution said: Now it was a calculation made by Dymond, whose work on morality ought to be in the hands of every man [hear, hear], that every man who is a producer works two hours every day more than it would otherwise be necessary, had it not been for our war taxes and establishments [hear, hear]. Now, suppose if instead of this way of paying the money the soldiers we see in our streets were to come to the workshops or cottages of our artisans, and demand that they should work two hours extra per day, that they, the soldiers, might be supported; should we not regard it as a badge of slavery and vassalism [cheers]? Will any man in this room, after so considering the question, think you, hire himself out at 13d. a day to be shot at [cheers, and laughter]? Or will any one after that hire himself for 13d. a day to kill the human race? I am not prepared to do so, and if every one at this meeting should so resolve, there is no power in the universe can make them fight [cheers].

The Chairman put the resolution, and it was carried with loud cheers.

JOSEPH STURGE, Esq., then came forward amidst loud cheers, and after explaining the reason why he was not present at the late meeting, said: The idea that we were going to have a compulsory ballot throughout the country originated a strong feeling. I rejoice that it did so. The expression of it has led the Government to think of some other plan, but I trust and hope that it will not induce you to relax your vigilance, but rather that it will have the effect of calling your attention to the whole system of keeping up standing armies and navies in times of peace [applause]. He quoted the following passage in reference to this subject:—

When the people hear it urged that a large army is rendered necessary by the increase of our population, then it is time to rouse themselves and shake off, before it is too late, the burden of a military government.

This is Lord John Russell's book on military Governments: I am afraid when he became prime minister, he forgot it [laughter]. In 1844 the standing army was increased to 139,480 men; and now, my friends, it is announced that we are to have from 10,000 to 20,000 men added to it, besides a militia force of 42,000 [hear, hear]. The estimates of 1844 for the army, navy, and ordnance, were £16,421,000, and I apprehend that this year it will fall very little short of eighteen millions. Some of our friends have alluded to the mighty power of passive resistance. It is a point to which I would call the attention of this meeting. Though the Duke of Wellington might beat all the armies of Bonaparte, yet following this principle of passive resistance he could not make a man of this assembly fight, if he was determined not to fight [loud cheers]. My friends, nothing is so irresistible as a firm and inflexible determination not to obey [cheers and laughter]. We are told that we are in danger of war if we do not keep up a standing army and navy, but my opinion is, that of all other things it is the most likely to provoke war [cheers]. But I will tell you, sir, what is our real danger. Perhaps you have not all looked at the number of military and naval officers who are members of the House of Commons. There are two admirals, one general, one lieutenant-general, seven major-generals, twenty-two colonels, thirty-two lieutenant-colonels, seven majors, sixty-seven captains of the army and navy, twelve lieutenants, and two cornets; making in the whole 153 members who are directly interested in this atrocious system [cries of "Hear," "Shame," and great sensation]. Now, I would appeal to any honest and candid mind whether these men ought to have seats in the British legislature, and vote away our money to pay themselves [cries of "No, no," and cheers].

Mr. Sturge then read extracts of a letter from Elihu Burrett, an American blacksmith, part of which we subjoin:—

"Is it not a time for those who fear God and love humanity to speak with a voice which godless rulers and legislators shall hear and respect? For myself, a little plan of my invention has succeeded to an extent that fills me with gratitude to God. I first began by writing a short article on the subject of peace, and then taking forty or fifty printed duplicates of it, and sending them to as many different newspapers. The articles were copied by quite a number of journals, which encouraged me to increase the number of duplicates of my subsequent articles. I now send out once a fortnight 500 of these slips to 500 different papers, scattered all over the country, from Nova Scotia to New Orleans, and nearly to the Rocky Mountains. I cannot tell how many of these papers inserted these articles, but about 200 came to me with them published in their columns as original; so I hope that I am talking through this wonderful medium to two millions of human consciences every week on the subject of peace."—In a more recent letter he says, "I now publish 1,200 of my slips weekly. I send them to 800 different newspapers in this country, and 100 to those in the United Kingdom, and 300 to the members of our United States' Congress. About 300 papers in this country are now publishing them, and the number is increasing every day."

Surely it is not too much after this, if the working men raise their voice against standing armies and navies, before another seven years are over to hope, that we shall find the nation generally prepared to give the death-warrant to the war system, and be willing to settle differences by arbitration. Then may we hope the time will have arrived when we shall consider every country to be our country, and that every man is our brother [great cheering]!

The Rev. Dr. MASSIE seconded the resolution, and said: I believe much good might be done by seeking the assistance of ladies, and reasoning with them on this subject. I sat by two ladies the other day: one was the wife and the other the daughter of a man of war. The question was brought up of the anticipated conflict



about the Oregon territory, and I could not but feel, that there is much in the notion of glory which attaches to the system that leads people to look upon it, who if they could be brought calmly to consider the consequences, would not entertain it for a moment. We spoke of the consequence if this gentleman lost an arm in the service what he would have as a pension, and I said to the lady, "If this sum of money was put down on a table, and it was put to you that your husband should lose his arm to become entitled to it, could you deliberately consent to take it?" "Oh, no!" she replied with a shudder. Now if these practical views of the question could be brought to bear upon the mind, I believe they would have much effect. I have no doubt, that if we can suppress the scarlet fever among women, we shall do much to abate the love of glory among men [cheers and laughter].

The resolution was ultimately put and carried unanimously; and after a vote of thanks to the chairman, the meeting separated.

**MERTHYR TYDVIL.**—On Monday evening week there was a meeting of upwards of 1,000 of the working men of this town, to protest against the enrolment of the militia. Mr. H. Thomas in the chair. A resolution was carried that, "Rather than serve as militia men, or provide substitutes, let us go to gaol." A petition to Parliament was adopted, one passage of which was as follows:—

That the major part of your petitioners are unenfranchised, having neither vote, voice, nor stake in the country; and they therefore deem it an act of flagrant injustice to be compelled, against their will, to serve in the militia.

On Tuesday evening there was an anti-militia meeting at Heywood, Lancashire, Jacob Bright, Esq., of Rochdale, in the chair. A petition to Parliament was adopted, and the meeting was addressed by E. P. Hood, Esq., of Liverpool; Mr. R. Chester, Wesleyan Association minister; Mr. J. Harrison, Independent minister, Heywood, and others.

**ANTI-MILITIA MEETING IN NORFOLK.**—On Monday evening a meeting in opposition to the enrolment of the militia, and the increase of the standing army, was held in Mr. Candler's room, Bawburgh, which was crowded to excess. Mr. Candler presided, and the meeting was addressed by the Revs. J. Puntis and T. Wheeler, and Messrs. Cozens, Twin, Bunting, and Madge. The resolutions were unanimously passed, as also a petition read by Mr. Claydon. A meeting was held on Thursday evening, in the chapel, Stoke, at which Mr. S. Colman presided. The resolutions were moved and seconded, on the entire principles of the Peace Society, by Messrs. Bunting, D. Williams, Twin, and Mr. Thurton. Mr. Candler moved the adoption of the petition, which was unanimously passed. Several hundred tracts of the Peace Society were distributed at these and previous meetings.—*Norfolk News*.

**THE ANTI-MILITIA MOVEMENT.**—The society recently formed in this town, for securing persons from loss in case of being balloted, have determined to suspend payments till the intentions of Government are known. The society, meanwhile, are keeping a vigilant eye on the Government.—*Newcastle Guardian*.

**EDINBURGH.**—On Thursday evening a numerously-attended public meeting was held in Dr. Ritchie's church, Potter-row, at which resolutions were unanimously proposed strongly condemnatory of any policy that may have a tendency to embroil this country in a war with America; and, at the same time, severely reprobating any steps that may be taken by Government for the enrolment of the militia. Petitions based on these resolutions were agreed to be sent to both Houses of Parliament. The second resolution was to the following effect:—

That, as we object to serving personally, we deprecate substitutionary service, and recommend all to abstain from connecting themselves with societies for that purpose, but rather to raise funds for the encouragement and assistance of those who may be injured in their interests by passively opposing the injustice of the laws.

**GLASGOW.**—On Tuesday evening last a public meeting of the members and friends of the Glasgow Anti-war Society was held in the City-hall. There were about 1,000 persons present. Mr. Smeal was called to the chair; and after able and stirring addresses from the Rev. George Jeffrey, of London-road, Mr. Malcolm Macfarlane, Mr. H. C. Wright, Mr. Ebenezer Anderson, Mr. Baird, and others, a series of resolutions were moved and adopted, declaratory of the opposition of the meeting to war, under any pretence and under all circumstances, and, in particular, their determination rather to suffer the penalties of the militia act than enlist as soldiers at the present crisis.—*Glasgow Examiner*.

**PEACE PETITION.**—The petition agreed to at a public meeting in Newcastle (the Mayor in the chair), praying the legislature not to sanction the enrolment of the militia, received 4,580 signatures, and was twenty-five yards long. It has been forwarded to the borough members for presentation.

**THE REV. MR. BICKERSTETH.**—We are extremely gratified to have it in our power to announce, that the much-respected rector of Watton is gradually recovering from the accident he met with last week. In consequence of the severity of the injuries he sustained, his recovery is not likely to be completed for some weeks to come, but it is pleasing to find that he is improving. It has been discovered, that one of the small bones of his leg was broken; the swelling of the limb had prevented this from being noticed at first.—*Hertford Mercury*.

**THE PREMIER IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.**—Sir Robert appears to be much occupied of late, if we may judge by his demeanour in the House; for he steadily employs himself, in the midst of this storm of invective, working away with papers and reports. As for the right baronet at the head of the Home Department, he sits quietly by his colleague's side, smiling with a look of preternatural benevolence at the chandeliers, nor, since Lord Worsley's readings from "Hansard," has he appeared much shaken by the eloquence of the Protectionists.—*Morning Chronicle*.

## ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

**DORSETSHIRE ELECTION.**—At Dorchester, on Thursday, Mr. Ker Seymour and Mr. Floyer were elected members for Dorsetshire, in the room of Lord Ashley and Mr. Sturt, without opposition. Lord Ashley was present; and though he took no part in the election proceedings, he made a long explanatory speech to the large crowd before the hustings. He stated, that not only had the Protectionist party opposed to him canvassed for support in favour of the new candidates, but they had canvassed for signatures to a declaration that support should not be given him! This extraordinary attempt at personal exclusion he imputed to his avowed, some time back, that "he would not be lynx-eyed to the faults of the manufacturers and blind to the defects of the agricultural body." He now openly repeated his avowed, that free-trade is inevitable, and his advice that the agriculturists should boldly and honourably concede it. After a masterly exposure of the totally unsupported nature of the assertion that free-trade will injure the agriculturists, he came round to the lamentable fact, that the population of this country are greatly under-fed; told the farmers and labourers of Dorsetshire of the immense interests and vast tribes of working classes to be cared for beyond the bounds of the agricultural districts—no enemies to the agricultural classes; and vindicated the Ministerial measure, with which he found only one fault—that the change of the corn-laws is not to be immediate instead of gradual. His lordship was especially eloquent in pointing out the intimate union that exists between the interest of all classes of the community. Prosperity for Lancashire must, sooner or later, be prosperity for Dorsetshire. "Every revolution of the steam-engine (said he) drives the ploughshare deeper and deeper into the fertile soil of England; and a free and friendly intercourse of all the families of the earth will secure your own prosperity under God." An attempt was made to put Lord Ashley in nomination, and to demand a poll; but he declined to stand, having pledged himself not to do so. The usual declaration was then made.

**WESTMINSTER ELECTION.**—This election terminated, as might have been supposed from the state of the poll as given in the postscript of our last number, in the return of General Evans. The poll was officially announced on Thursday, by the High Bailiff—for Evans, 3,843; for Rous, 2,906; majority for Evans, 937. Sir R. Peel was amongst the earliest to record his vote for Captain Rous. Amongst other supporters of the Ministerial candidate were Mr. Hume and Mr. Warburton, who used all their influence to secure his return; whilst Mr. D'Israeli and other distinguished Protectionists voted for Sir De Lacy Evans.

**THE EAST SUFFOLK election** was one of those solemn farces which exhibit the miserable and degraded condition of the county constituencies. It took place on Thursday. Mr. Gooch was chosen, not by the nominal electors, but by the combination of a few landlords anxious to maintain and perpetuate the serfdom of their tenantry. He was hooted from the hustings by the very men whom he is said to represent; the popular voice, so far as it could be heard, protested against his return, which will add little to the strength of the Protectionists, but will give fresh vigour to the efforts of the Free-traders to redeem the counties from their present degrading thralldom.—*League*.

**SOUTH LANCASHIRE.**—A meeting of the council of the League, and other subscribers to the League fund, was held at Manchester on Tuesday evening, at which a numerous committee was appointed to canvass for the signatures of electors of this division, to a requisition to the Hon. C. P. Villiers, M.P., and William Brown Esq., requesting them to become candidates for the representation of South Lancashire at the next general election.

**MR. WILLIAM HENRY BODKIN**, one of the members for Rochester, has intimated to the constituency his intention to vote with Ministers. Mr. Bodkin offers to resign should his vote displease the electors.

At a meeting of the electors of South Durham, a resolution, requesting Mr. Bowes to retain his seat, was carried unanimously.

**REPRESENTATION OF OLDHAM.**—On Tuesday evening last, a numerous meeting of the general election committee of the Radical party in the borough of Oldham, was held at the Hare and Hounds Inn, Yorkshire-street. Mr. William Taylor, of Vale Mill, was voted to the chair. It was stated, that the sub-committee, who had been appointed a short time ago to make inquiries for suitable candidates, would not undertake to recommend any individual, for they were divided in opinion, six of them being in favour of W. J. Fox, Esq., of London; four for John M. Cobbett, Esq., barrister; and one for J. Holladay, Esq., Oldham. After a considerable time had been spent in discussing the best course of proceeding, the above three gentlemen were submitted to the decision of the meeting, on which it appeared that there were thirty-three in favour of W. J. Fox, Esq., thirty-two for J. M. Cobbett, Esq., and twenty-six for J. Holladay, Esq. It was ultimately resolved, that an open-air meeting of the electors of the borough should be called by the sub-committee, at such time and place as they thought proper, for the purpose of deciding which of the three gentlemen was the most eligible candidate.—*Manchester Times*.

**EAST GLOUCESTERSHIRE ELECTION.**—The Marquis of Worcester is at present the only candidate. It is stated, however, to be the intention of the Free-traders to bring forward another at the nomination, which is fixed for Friday next. Mr. Sturge, of Birmingham, has been named as the free-trade candidate.—*Cheltenham Free Press*.

**THE SOMERSET PROTECTION SOCIETY** have called upon the members for the western division either to oppose Sir Robert Peel's measure or resign. Mr. T. Ackland says, he would vote for Sir R. Peel's measure, because he does not think that any better terms can be obtained for the agriculturists. Mr. F. H. Dickenson thinks the measures of Sir Robert Peel will be "on the whole for the good of the country," and he shall give him his support. A requisition is in course of signature calling

on Sir Alex. Hood, Bart., Charles A. Moody, W. F. Knatchbull, and Wm. Miles, Esq., to come forward on protective principles to represent the eastern and western divisions, in the event of an election.

**MR. G. CORNWALL LEIGH**, M.P. for North Cheshire, met some of his constituents on Friday, at Knutsford. After an address from the hon. member, a resolution was passed to the effect that, "although the meeting cannot agree with many of his opinions, yet, considering the circumstances under which the country is now placed, they beg to leave it to him to pursue the course he deems right at the present crisis."

**NORTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.**—The free-trade party are understood to be awaiting the result of the election for the southern division, with the view of bringing forward the Earl of Lincoln in the event of his defeat in that portion of the county. There is said to be no doubt whatever of the noble lord's election for North Notts. But, should his lordship be re-elected for the southern division, the Free-traders will find their cause seriously perilled in the north by so long and dangerous a delay in the choice of a candidate. They are still canvassing for votes, assuring the electors that a candidate will come forward. Meanwhile, Lord Henry Bentinck and his Protectionist friends are fairly in the field, and are making the most of their start, so that it is doubtful whether any candidate but Lord Lincoln could defeat them. It is stated, that if the Earl of Lincoln retains his seat in the south, Mr. Gladstone will be brought forward by the Free-traders as a formidable opponent to Lord H. Bentinck in the northern division. The nomination for North Notts takes place on Saturday next, at Mansfield, and the polling on the Tuesday and Wednesday following.

**SOUTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.**—The nomination of candidates for the representation of this division of the county, took place at Newark, on Saturday. Lord Lincoln was proposed by Sir R. H. Bromley, Bart., and seconded by J. Manners Sutton, Esq. W. H. Barrow, Esq., proposed, and George Storer, Esq., seconded, Mr. Hildyard. After a short address from J. E. E. Denison, M.P., who was displaced from the representation of the county by the Earl of Lincoln fourteen years ago, in support of his lordship, Lord Lincoln addressed the freeholders for nearly three hours, chiefly in support of the Ministerial measure. He mentioned one or two striking facts in proof of the little apprehension entertained of a repeal of the corn-laws. For example:—

The sales of land, when they took place, evinced a similar absence of alarm. On Friday week eighty acres of land, at Harworth, sold for £5,500, for which four years ago only £3,800 was paid. Would any agriculturist, among his Protectionist opponents, take two-thirds of the value he had heretofore put upon his land, in consequence of the Government measure?

And again, with regard to the inclosure of waste land:—

The number of applications from the passing of the act in August to December, when it was believed the fate of the corn-laws was sealed ("Oh, oh") amounted to nineteen, and including 15,000 acres. From December 1, to the present time, the number of applications was thirty-one, and included 15,000 acres also. And they were still coming in as rapidly. These applications were not made from the neighbourhoods of towns or manufacturing districts, but from such agricultural counties as Lincoln and Essex [hear].

The great argument employed by the noble lord was not so much that corn-law repeal is a necessary and beneficial thing, as that it has become a *fait accompli*. His lordship's supporters tell the farmer that there will be a majority in the House of Commons of 100 in favour of the Government measure, and they ask him what difference a single vote can make either for or against? Lord Lincoln announced, that he was determined to keep the poll open to the latest moment on Wednesday. Mr. Hildyard briefly addressed the meeting, and on being asked some questions declined to answer them. The show of hands was three to one in Lord Lincoln's favour. A poll was demanded for Mr. Hildyard, which was to take place yesterday and today. The result of the first day's poll will be found in our Postscript. Perhaps the most interesting event of the week in connexion with the election has been the issue of an address to the inhabitants of South Nottingham by the Duke of Newcastle (Lord Lincoln's father). In that address he said:—

Lord Lincoln has been the deluded victim of bad counsel, and in no instance more conspicuously than in the course which he has pursued upon the present occasion. Still, however, the move has been made; and, although we may justly condemn it as a very great mistake, there may be some shadow of pretence for it, if it were intended by the experiment to test the public opinion. Now, however, that it has been in a course of most diligent trial for ten days—that the fullest proof has been elicited, and the result known to be totally adverse to the new doctrines, and unsuccessful to the deceived advocate of them, in the sincerity of my heart, and as a member of the constituency, I suggest to Lord Lincoln the propriety of withdrawing from an useless, and to all most painful, struggle against a long-tried and approved principle and policy, and at once to restore tranquillity to the county, and the undisturbed possession of its unquestionable convictions.

The Earl of Lincoln made no mention at the nomination of his father's letter to the electors, except to say that he thought he ought not to allude to it. His lordship looked pale and unwell, and is said to feel acutely the anxieties and responsibilities of prolonging the contest after the public appeal of his father. "Nothing but success," it is said by his friends, "will justify him in the eyes of the world, for so marked a disregard of his father's most cherished opinions and wishes." Lord Lincoln's friends think that the majority, on one side or the other, will not be more than 100. At Newark last week bets of five to one were offered against his lordship with no takers. But after the nomination on Saturday even bets were offered in vain on both sides. So that the strength of the opposing parties is believed to be more evenly balanced than it was a few days ago.

The Duke of Norfolk has withdrawn from the Sussex Protection Society, and will, we understand, support the Government measure for the abolition of the corn-laws.—*Brighton Guardian*.



## LITERATURE.

*An Exposition of the Laws of Conference Methodism, &c., &c.* By the Rev. ROBERT ECKETT. London: Pearson, Horse-shoe-court, Ludgate-hill. 1846.

THIS is one of the first fruits of the Evangelical Alliance—and, as are the first fruits, so we predict will be the harvest. Mr. William M. Bunting takes upon himself, or prevails upon a sub-committee, to strike Mr. Eckett's name from a committee proposed to carry out the resolutions of the Conference, on the ground that Mr. Eckett "had been excommunicated from the Wesleyan Methodist Society." The events which terminated in that act of ecclesiastical discipline are here calmly stated—and the conclusion is irresistible, that Mr. Eckett's sole crime has been his opposition to priestly despotism as unmitigated as any which can be found in the Romish Church. Conference Methodism is here laid bare to its springs—and proves to be that worst of all oligarchies, an oligarchy of ecclesiastics. How the great body of Wesleyan Methodists can quietly resign themselves to a slavery so ignoble and severe, passes our comprehension. The idolatry of a name, however, usually carries with it this self-same punishment—and, in all ages of the Church, they who have set up another master than Christ, have found themselves obliged, at length, to succumb to intolerable oppression. For our own parts, we regard with suspicion all corporate ecclesiastical bodies—all mechanism contrived to give external oneness to the separate congregations of the faithful. They are all, in our judgment, based upon a singular misapprehension of the design and spirit of true Christianity—and, one after another, they will all tumble to pieces. We thank Mr. Eckett for his pamphlet—we admire the spirit in which it is written—and we commend the perusal of it to all who wish to acquaint themselves with one of the most striking forms of modern ecclesiastical despotism.

*Emmaus; or, Communion with the Saviour at Eventide.* By JOHN WADDINGTON, author of "The Hebrew Martyrs." London: Snow. 1846.

THE walk to Emmaus is one of the most graceful and touching narratives contained in the inspired records—one of the happiest subjects for spiritual musing and for practical remark. Mr. Waddington, whom we are always glad to meet, has displayed a felicitous judgment in selecting it for his peculiar and pleasing style of treatment. The chapters (fifteen in number) may be regarded as a series of pictures, illustrative of Christian truth, and Christian experience. The drawings, if we may be allowed the expression, are chaste and classical, distinguished by repose, and the moral of each is very naturally and beautifully developed. The book has in it all the witching tranquillity, and subdued effulgence of "eventide." It is a clear stream of living water, pure and pellucid, gentle in its flow, and fringed along its whole course with verdure and fruitfulness. The work is for the closet, or the family; few can read it without pleasure; none, we should hope, without profit. We venture, however, to suggest a friendly hint to the author: his pictures are too much in the same manner; a little variety would have given them more life. This, if it be a defect, is a minor one. We point it out merely for consideration, and because we hope public encouragement will prompt Mr. Waddington to further efforts. The volume will be a treat to all who, combining intellectual taste with spirituality of mind, endeavour to exercise both in the study of scriptural subjects. We wish it a wide circulation.

*History of the Reformation in the Sixteenth Century.* By J. H. MERLE D'AUBIGNE, D.D. A new translation, by HENRY BEVERIDGE, Esq. Vol. II. Glasgow. Collins. We gave our judgment in favour of this enterprise at the commencement of the first volume. The translation itself—the superiority of the edition from which it is made—the correct rendering of all the Latin notes—the typography—and, above all, the price, being only eighteen pence—ought to secure for it triumphant success. The second volume is now before us; we notice it merely to reiterate our first recommendation. We thoroughly agree with Dr. Chalmers, that "It is most desirable that such a book should be circulated; and that, not more because of its theology—not more because of its influence on the personal sentiments and the consciences of its readers, than because of its peculiar adaptation to the circumstances of the times."

*Thirty-six Nonconformist Sonnets.* By a YOUNG ENGLANDER. pp. 48. Aylott and Jones. 1846.

IF Dr. Johnson thought religion an unfit subject for poetry, what is to be said for Nonconformity? The rhyme of these sonnets is correct, and the reason right; and we trust that many "Young Englanders" will be found animated by the spirit of faith and firmness here breathed. We should add, that some of these sonnets have appeared in the *Patriot*.

*Timothy; a Second Sketch for the Sober and the Young.* By JAMES DUNCAN, Minister, Warkworth. pp. 32. Alnwick: W. Davison.

EASY, flowing verses, in which are described Timothy's education, faith in Christ, office and companionship, indisposition, medicine, and the document containing the prescription. The author pleads hard for total abstinence.

*America and her Slave System.* pp. 60. Simpkin, Marshall, and Co. 1846.

THIS pamphlet contains a great deal of information, of various kinds, on the subject discussed, and will well repay a perusal.

*Forest and Game-Law Tales.* By MISS MARTINEAU. Vol. II. pp. 301. Moxon. 1845.

MISS MARTINEAU continues her task with ability and spirit. The present volume contains three tales:—"The Bishop's Flock and the Bishop's Herd," "Heathendom in Christendom," and "Four Years at Maude Chapel Farm."

## THE FAMILY COMPANION.

IMMENSE NATURAL BEEHIVE.—In a cavern, on the right bank of the Colorado, about seven miles from Austin, there is an immense hive of wild bees. On a warm day a dark stream of bees may be constantly seen winding out from the cavern like a long, dark wreath of smoke. The stream often appears one or two feet in diameter near the cliff, and gradually spreads out like a fan, growing thinner and thinner at a distance from the cavern, until it disappears. The number of bees in this cavern must be incalculably great, probably greater than the number in a thousand or ten thousand ordinary hives. The oldest settlers say that the hive was there when they first arrived in the country; and it is quite probable that it existed in the same state many years previous to the settlement of this country. It was estimated that there are many tons of honey and wax in this immense hive; and if its contents could be extracted readily, they would doubtless be found far more valuable than the contents of any silver or gold mine that adventurers have been seeking for years in that section.—*Texas Telegraph*.

FLOWERS OF AMERICAN ORATORY.—The last arrival from New York has furnished us, *inter alia*, with the following speech, delivered by a Mr. Chipman, in the House of Representatives:—"He went for the whole of Oregon. He was not like the man who went for the middle extreme. He was not for steering between Silly and Charybogue [roars of laughter]. Mr. Chairman (said he), what is the question [loud laughter]? We hear great talk about being scared by a lion in place of a wolf (referring to Mr. Holmes's speech on Oregon). He was not, and would not be, afraid of English lions. He gloried in the speech of the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Adams). He had had prejudices against that venerable man, but they were all dissipated by his noble position on Oregon: though his head was white with blossoms, he was in favour of the rights of his country. He had touched the heart of the nation with a live coal from off the altar of patriotism. The brightest page of history would record the name of Adams, who was the breathing, living history of this country's diplomacy." Mr. Chipman then went on to distinguish "joint occupation" from "joint occupancy." He gave his views upon arbitration, by "supposing that some loafers would gather around him, and ask him to arbitrate about his own coat, to which his right was 'clear and unquestionable.' Our right was as clear to Oregon as his right was to his coat. It did not come by Adam's will; it was by the will of Omnipotence, whose plastic hand had made this continent for our governing hands. Lewis Cass, of Michigan (he said), would do great things. Michigan would take the conquest of Canada by the job; Michigan would take Canada in ninety days, and give it back to England for the pleasure of taking it again." He then went into a defence of his former views on "Education warring on Democracy." "He repeated it. It thwarted the ways of Providence, and made men Whigs [shouts of laughter]. The rhymes of the Hartford convention times referred to the Jefferson gun-boat scheme:—

'Gun boat number one,  
Wiggle waggle went her tail, and pop went her gun.'

Education taught men to write that way in days gone by. He seemed to be afraid of war; but he was not afraid. If a British man-of-war was lying in the Potomac, with a broad-side levelled at this hall (the capitol is not on a level with the Potomac), and did she threaten us with destruction if we did not give up certain territory, ay, even one square yard, he would say—(a long pause)—'Fire' [shouts of laughter, and cries of 'Go it!']. Mr. Chipman said, "He had in his eye the boa constrictor of American freedom. The hedgehog of British usurpation spread out his quills. (Here the gentleman shrugged his shoulders and spread his fingers, to imitate a hedgehog.) But let that hedgehog beware how it came within the grasp of the boa constrictor."

ALL REFORM BEGINS AT HOME.—What a man's home is, his whole life will be, as a general rule. And the principles, the ideas, the plans, the motives, the hopes and fears which govern him there, and constitute the atmosphere of his dwelling, will go out with him into all his intercourse and business. If all is well at home, we need not watch him in the market. If he is a true man there, he is a true man everywhere. If wise and prudent there, he will not need to be made any more a "man of the world." If he can succeed in redeeming life's most familiar scenes from dullness and unprofitableness, the world abroad will be all fresh and full of entertainment. If he be not a dull familiar stranger in his home, he will find himself at home wherever he goes. If there be independence of physical comforts, and abundance of mental, moral, and social resources in one's dwelling, there will be no unnecessary anxiety, no feverish hurry, no narrow drudgery in one's business abroad. One will work cheerfully for small profits, if he be rich in the love and society of his home. If discontented there, he will be discontented everywhere. So long as the fire of love burns brightly on the domestic altar, he will not be frozen by the selfishness of the world.—*Ideals of Every-Day Life*.

A NEW VEGETABLE.—We have been in the habit of eating the leaves of the rhubarb plant for many years, and seeing that the fruit stalks of this vegetable were counted as waste, I thought it very likely that they were the better part of the plant, and I now find, that the pouches of unopened flowers bear the same relation to the leaves of rhubarb that cauliflowers do to cabbage leaves, and may be obtained in great abundance, and that at a time (April), when all kinds of vegetables are valuable. The pouches of the flower-buds are of a beautiful colour when dressed in the same manner that rhubarb is dressed, and resemble the inside of a fig; the flavour is milder than that of rhubarb stalk, but I do not look upon it so much in the light of an article for making tarts of, as I do for its use as a boiled vegetable, to be used like broccoli. Let no one take my opinion of the matter, but let every one judge for himself as soon as the flower stems show themselves.

As a matter of course, the plants should be grown in rich ground, and the pouches to be crisp should be got very young, and will require some care in cooking.—*Gardener's Chronicle*.

## DEATH AND THE HANGMAN.

Up at a crazy old house-top,  
In a dreary room, whose walls were hung  
With pictures grim of the gallows drop,  
And the doggerel rhymes by felons sung:

There, at the close of a Sabbath night,  
The hangman sat as mute as stone;  
There he sat in the murky light,  
He and his shadow alone—alone!

The hum of the streets had died away,  
And the mighty city held its breath,  
As though it knew that the coming day  
Had been set apart by man, for Death.

The hangman rose, and paced the room,  
(The curse of Cain is a weary curse!)  
He paused to look at the felon's doom,  
And he tried to hum the felon's verse.

At length to his shadowy self he spoke:  
"Two living creatures, of flesh and bone,  
I on the morrow must help to choke,  
Doing to them what to others they've done

"When first I took to the hangman's trade,  
I'd many qualms at the gallows tree;  
But I said, 'Tis law, and those who made  
The law must answer for such as me.'

"The makers of law have honour and wealth,  
But I, who finish what they begin,  
Can only creep among men by stealth;  
For somehow, they think my craft a sin.

"Two on the morrow must hang till they're dead,  
And I must hang them, nor pause nor quail;  
For where should I look for my daily bread,  
If the gallows' gains, alas! should fail?

"We have nothing to fear!" said a voice—(and the room  
Was fill'd with a damp and fetid air,  
And the walls all reek'd like a long-closed tomb,  
For lo! the presence of Death was there.)

"We have nothing to fear! Good men may preach  
That life is sacred!—that none must slay!—  
But we have the rope and the beam, to teach  
That the law can kill its two a-day.

"And the gallows-lesson some will learn;  
So hangman mine, there is always hope  
That we must thrive until all men spurn  
Those grisly teachers—the beam and rope."

—*Jerrold's Magazine*.

## THE RAGGED SCHOOLS.

(From the *Daily News*.)

In the depth of a forest, dreary and dark,  
The traveller welcomes the glimmering spark  
That bids him press onward, through labyrinthine dim—  
For hope in the distance is shining for him.

His robe may be miry, his sandals be torn,  
His aspect all haggard, his features all worn,  
And some at his bearing may start in amazement—  
May fear to approach him and shudder to gaze.

But tend him and nurse him, the picture will show,  
In the traveller rescued, nor brigand nor foe:  
'Twas but toil and fatigue that had clouded his brow,  
Still the light was within, and shines brilliantly now.

In misery's world there are beings who stray  
With no beacon to cheer or encourage their way;  
They are squalid, unmortgaged, despised, and forlorn,  
And the polish'd pass by them with loathing and scorn.

But let the door open and welcome them in,  
Let the work of redemption from evil begin;  
Be they cherish'd and taught, and a gleam will yet shine,  
To prove in their nature a part is divine:  
The torch may be turned towards earth, but the flame  
Rises ever to heaven, aspiring the same.

L.

## GLEANINGS.

A few days ago there was formed at Glasgow, "The Glasgow Commercial Travellers' Total Abstinence Society."

Ingratitude is the abridgement of all baseness,—a fault never found unattended with other viciousness.—*Fuller*.

Mr. Wakley stated last week, at an inquest, in a case of suicide during a fit of insanity, that he had had as many as twenty-six similar cases in less than twelve days.

The true motives of our actions, like the real pipes of an organ, are usually concealed, but the gilded and hollow pretext is pompously placed in front for show.

"This is too serious a matter to make light of," as the whale remarked when they were dipping the oil out of his head.

Recently, a Mr. Dickenson was unanimously elected master of the Thwaites school, near Lancaster, there being only one elector and one candidate.

The *Morning Chronicle* has existed for 77, the *Morning Post* 75, *Herald* 63, *Times* 61, and the *Advertiser* 51 years.

COLD AND HOT.—The measures recommended by John Quincy Adams, in his recent speech with regard to the occupation of Oregon, are the very ones he denounced last year, as eventuating in actual war and the loss of Oregon.

PLATE GLASS.—The reduction of the duty upon plate glass has increased the demand for that material to so great an extent, that many months must elapse before the existing orders can be executed.

TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF.—The strawberry-leaf is the distinctive sign of the ducal coronet. It is proposed that the strawberry should be altered to the gooseberry, as being more indicative of the fools certain dukes have lately been making of themselves.—*Punch*.

The pocket of the editor of the *Boston Journal* was picked a few days since, and all the thief got for his risk and pains was an unfinished article on the Oregon question.

AUTOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT OF THE MOON.—M. Claudet, in making experiments on the photographic actions on the moon's rays, formed a powerful picture by five minutes' exposure. He hopes to be able to obtain a very accurate daguerreotype of the moon's surface, drawn by herself, on silver plate.—*The Builder*.

ADVANTAGE OF SMOKING.—An inveterate smoker, in the neighbourhood of Matlock, was told by his medical attendant, a few evenings ago, that tobacco would be the means of shortening his days; to which he replied, "Well, never mind, it has afforded the means of lengthening many of my nights."



At the celebration of the New England Society, at New Orleans, the following toast was among the "regulars": "The Daughters of Louisiana—attracted by their bright eyes, enchained by their sweet smiles, the sons of the Pilgrims only await their ascent to become pilgrim fathers."

A fellow in one of the cities "down east," recently advertised in a morning paper for a wife, and, before night, eighteen different men sent him word he might have theirs. *American Paper.*

A COMPANION through the state apartments of Windsor has been prepared by the directions of Prince Albert, and is sold for one penny!—expressly at this price, we believe, at his Royal Highness's desire. A royal wish for a penny catalogue is a strange sign of the times.

A prospectus of an Irish fishing-boat company has been published, announcing the formation of a company with a capital of £150,000 in 6,000 shares of £25 each.

NARROW ESCAPE OF TOM THUMB.—The floor of the Town-hall at Airdrie, where General Tom Thumb was exhibiting at a cheaper rate to the working classes, on Monday evening, gave way from the pressure, and precipitated three hundred people into a smith's shop below; one man had his leg broken. The table on which the general had been performing a few minutes before the accident fell with the mass, and was crushed to pieces.

THE DINNER HOUR THREE CENTURIES AGO.—At this time it was a mark of gentility and fashion to dine early, instead of late. "With us the nobility, gentry, and students, do ordinarily go to dinner at eleven before noon, and to supper at five, or between five and six at afternoon. The merchants dine and sup seldom before twelve at noon and six at night. The husbandmen also dine at high noon, as they call it, and sup at seven or eight; but out of term in our universities the scholars dine at ten"—Hall.

MORALITY NECESSARY TO INTELLECT.—Without hands, a man might have feet, and could still walk; but without morality, intellect were impossible for him, he could not know anything at all. To know a thing, that which we call knowing, a man must first love the thing—sympathise with it, that is, be virtually related to it. If he have not the justice to put down his own selfishness at every turn, the courage to stand by the dangerous "true" at every turn, how shall he know?—*Thos. Carlyle.*

#### BIRTHS.

Dec. 25, 1845, at the Mission-house, Bethsalem, St. Elizabeth's, Jamaica, the wife of Mr. ROBERT GAY, Baptist missionary, of a son.

Dec. 28, 1845, at Falmouth, Jamaica, the wife of E. KNIBB, Esq., of a daughter.

Feb. 14, at Kensington, the wife of Mr. J. STOUGHTON, Independent minister, of a son.

#### MARRIAGES.

Dec. 23, 1845, by license, at Barriffe-hall, St. Mary's, Jamaica, by Mr. D. Day, Mr. WILLIAM TRALL, of St. Mary's, minister, to Miss HANNAH EASTON, of the former place.

Feb. 10, at the Office of the Superintendent Registrar, Marlborough, Wilts, Mr. GEORGE GRAFFTEY, home missionary, Brasington, Derbyshire, to SARAH, eldest daughter of Mr. Richard BEACH, of Marlborough.

Feb. 11, at the Congregational chapel, Great Driffeld, Mr. JONATHAN ANGAS, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, to SARAH, second daughter of Mr. C. ANGAS, of Newick, near the former place.

Feb. 14, at Stepney meeting, by Mr. H. S. Seaborn, minister of Coverdale chapel, MICHAEL JOHN CASTLEDEN, Esq., of the General Registry Office, Somerset-house, and grandson of Mr. Michael Castleden, Woburn, Bedfordshire, to MARIANNE, only daughter of the late Robert BOSLEY, Esq.

Feb. 16, at Grantham, by Mr. J. Barlett, minister, Mr. JOHN COHEN, tea-dealer, to ISABELLA WAITE, both of Grantham.

Feb. 16, at Llancwille, Cardiganshire, DANIEL S. EVANS, Esq., the Welsh poet, to MARGARET JULIET, third daughter of W. WALTERS, Esq., Hendre, in the county of Cardigan.

Feb. 17, at the Independent chapel, Witheridge, Devon, by Mr. W. O'Neill, minister, Mr. T. MARKER, of Cadely, near Tiverton, Devon, to Miss MARY ANN JOSELAND, eldest daughter of the late Mr. Richard Joseland, of the City of Worcester, wine merchant. This was the first wedding ever solemnised at the above chapel.

Feb. 18, at the Abbey chapel, Romsey, by Mr. W. S. Balls, minister, Miss HARRIET POLLARD, to Mr. JOHN FRIPP, both of Romsey.

#### DEATHS.

Feb. 9, after a short illness, during his temporary stay in town, ROBERT ARMOUR, Esq., of Brighton, Sussex, formerly merchant in the Old Change, London, and brother-in-law of the poet Burns, aged 62.

Feb. 17, at his residence, Formosa Cottage, Holloway, deeply regretted, JOHN PIPER BURNARD, Esq., aged 56 years, after a long and painful illness.

Feb. 18, at his residence, Margate, Mr. HENRY HEAP, minister of the Gospel, aged 58. For many years he was minister of Bury-street chapel, St. Mary-axe, formerly Dr. Watts's.

Feb. 15, aged 48, Mrs. ABRAHAM, wife of the celebrated vocalist, and mother of the Countess Waldegrave.

Feb. 18, at his residence, Adelphi-terrace, aged 61, Mr. WILLIAM HAWES, professor of music. Mr. Hawes was a gentleman of the Chapel Royal, almoner of St. Paul's Cathedral, and master of the boys of both the choirs; the eminent singer, Miss Maria B. Hawes, is his youngest daughter.

Feb. 19, at Ruthwell, near Edinburgh, Dr. DUNCAN of the Free Church and founder of Savings Banks.

### TRADE AND COMMERCE.

Friday, February 20.

The following buildings are certified as places duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to an act of 6 and 7 William IV., cap. 85:—

St. David, Cardiff, Glamorganshire.  
Betharan, Bryn-y-menis, Glamorganshire.

#### BANKRUPTS.

BIRKETT, JAMES, Cockermouth, tanner, Feb. 27, April 8: solicitors, Mr. E. Waugh, Cockermouth; and Mr. G. W. Cram, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

BLACKER, ROWLAND HILL, and EARLTH, CHARLES, jun., Gresham-street, City, warehousemen, March 3 and 31: solicitors, Messrs. Sole and Co., Aldermanbury.

CHAMBERS, JOHN CROYCE, Ipsley, Warwickshire, needle-manufacturer, March 2 and 30: solicitors, Mr. Browning, Redditch; and Messrs. Nelson and Co., Gresham-place, London.

COLLINS, CHARLES, Kidderminster, yarn dealer, March 14 and 30: solicitors, Mr. W. Boycott, Kidderminster; and Messrs. Mottram and Knowles, Birmingham.

COLLINS, CHARLES, Kidderminster, King William-street, City, yarn and commission agent, March 10, April 3: solicitor, Mr. Dangerfield, Chancery-lane.

DALTON, JOHN, Wandsworth, Surrey, grocer, March 5 and 31: solicitor, Mr. J. J. Blake, Blackfriars-road, Southwark.

DOCKEN, HENRY, Pall-mall, oilman, March 5, March 31: solicitor, Mr. James Goren, South Molton-street.

HARRISS, JAMES, Leadenhall-market, butcher, Feb. 27, April 3: solicitor, Mr. B. Withington, Dean-street, Finsbury-square.

HOARE, EDWIN, Charlfield, Gloucestershire, clothier, March 9, April 6: solicitor, Mr. A. Adey, Wootton-under-Edge.

KNOX, JAMES, Black Horse-yard, Bond-street, carpenter, March 3, April 7: solicitor, Mr. J. Goren, South Molton-street, Oxford-street.

KIMPTON, ROBERT, Crescent, Jewin-street, Cripplegate, jeweller, Feb. 27, March 27: solicitors, Messrs. Goodman and Co., Coleman-street.

MILLNER, JAMES, Stourport, Worcestershire, innkeeper, March 2, April 3: solicitors, Mr. H. Ludlow, Birmingham; and Messrs. Dimmock and Burbey, Sise-lane, London.

PHILLIPS, JOSEPH, HAGUE, WILLIAM, and HAGUE, SAMUEL, Man-

chester, cotton-spinners, March 3 and 25: solicitors, Messrs. Sharp and Co., Bedford-row, London; and Messrs. Laces and Co., Liverpool.

TAYLOR, THOMAS MAGINNIS, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, merchant, March 5, April 7: solicitors, Mr. W. L. Harle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; and Messrs. Chisholme and Co., Lincoln's Inn-fields, London.

TREBOUT, ABRAHAM, jun., Steward-street, Spitalfields, silk manufacturer, Feb. 27, April 3: solicitors, Messrs. Smith and Taylor, Basinghall-street.

#### DIVIDENDS.

William Henry Alexander, Upper Clifton-street, Finsbury, hardwareman; third div. of 12s. 2d., any Saturday; 12, Abchurch-lane, City—Thomas Smyth, Marchmont-street, Brunswick-square, perfumer; second div. of 10d., any Saturday; 12, Abchurch-lane—William Verey, High-street, Kingsland, licensed victualler, first div. of 7d., any Monday; 12, Birch-lane, City—John Flemell Armstrong, Greenwich, china dealer; second div. of 1s. 1d., any Monday; 12, Birch-lane—James Tunks, Scardell-terrace, Kensington, cow-keeper; first div. of 3s. 6d., any Monday; 12, Birch-lane—John Brakenridge, Liverpool, tailor; first div. of 10s., any Wednesday; 12, Cook-street, Liverpool—Edward Thomas, Clifton, Bristol, wine-merchant; first div. of 4s., any Monday; 19, St. Augustine's-place, Bristol—John Symons, Chard, Somersetshire, tanner; first dividend of 10s. 10d., any Monday; 19, St. Augustine's-place, Bristol—P. W. Smith, Bristol, tanner; second div. of 2s. 10d., any Monday; 19, St. Augustine's-place, Bristol—Francis Sneath, Chester, timber-merchant, div. of 1s. 3d., any Monday; 19, South Castle-street, Liverpool—John Egerton Webster, Tattenhall, Cheshire, third div. of 4s., any Monday; 19, South Castle-street, Liverpool—William Harding, sen., Johnson-street, Westminster, mason; div. of 8s., any Friday; 1, Sambrook-court, Basinghall-street.

#### SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

CRAIG, JOHN, jun., Lochwinnoch, farmer, Feb. 25, March 25.  
MOFFAT, ANDREW, Edinburgh, stock-broker, Feb. 26, March 19.

Tuesday, Feb. 24.

The following building is certified as a place duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to an act of the 6th and 7th William IV., c. 85:—

Ebeneser chapel, West Bromwich, Staffordshire.

#### BANKRUPTS.

BENTLEY, RALPH and LONGBOTTOM, WILLIAM, Rochdale, Lancashire, wool merchants, March 5, April 4: solicitors, Mr. Abbott, Charlotte-street, London; and Messrs. Atkinson, Saunders, and Atkinson, Manchester.

COLES, HENRY PEARSON, Wickham Market, Suffolk, inn-keeper, March 5, April 7: solicitor, Mr. Lewis, Arundel-street, Strand.

FRANKISH, RICHARD KIRBY, Scarborough, Yorkshire, joiner, March 10, 31: solicitors, Mr. Kirk, Symond's-hill, London; and Mr. Harle, Leeds.

FREBOUT, ABRAHAM, jun., 25, Steward-street, Spitalfields, silk manufacturer, Feb. 27, April 3: solicitors, Messrs. Smith and Taylor, Basinghall-street.

GARLAND, ROBERT, Walham-green, Middlesex, corn chandler, March 3, April 7: solicitor, Mr. S. E. Donne, 28, New Broad-street.

HARLEY, EDWARD STEANE, Birmingham, grocer, March 10, April 3: solicitors, Messrs. Mottram and Knowles, Birmingham.

HOLDSWORTH, SAMUEL, and HOLDSWORTH, WILLIAM, Drighlington, Yorkshire, corn millers, March 9, April 2: solicitors, Messrs. Gregory and Co., Bedford-row, London; and Messrs. Taylor and Westmorland, Wakefield.

HUTCHINSON, SAMUEL, Bradford, Yorkshire, stockbroker, March 9, April 2: solicitors, Mr. Flower, Broad-street, Cheapside, London; Mr. Wood, Bradford; and Mr. Cariss, Leeds.

KITSON, WILLIAM, White-street, Borough, soap manufacturer, March 6, 31: solicitors, Messrs. Loftus, Pofy, and Son, King-street, Cheapside.

KNIGHTS, JONATHAN, Great Melton and Thurgarton, Norfolk, cattle dealer, March 3, April 7: solicitors, Messrs. Jay and Pilgrim, Norwich.

MOIR, GEORGE, 24, John's-row, St. Luke's, boot and shoe maker, March 7, April 6: solicitors, Messrs. Hughes and Turner, Charles-street, City-road.

ROWLANDSON, WILLIAM, Wakefield, surgeon, March 9, 30: solicitors, Messrs. Gregory and Co., Bedford-row, London, and Messrs. Taylor and Westmorland, Wakefield.

SELF, CHARLES, 15, Sun-street, Bishopsgate Without, City, plumber, March 10, April 6: solicitor, Mr. Wright, Cook's-court, Lincoln's-inn.

TODD, HENRY JOHN, and EDWARD, 4, Bow-church-yard, City, and Liverpool, drapers, March 6, April 6: solicitors, Messrs. Soles and Turner, Aldermanbury.

VERTUE, STEPHEN, Liverpool, merchant, March 13, April 14: solicitors, Messrs. Sharpe and Co., Bedford-row, London; and Messrs. Harvey and Falcon, Liverpool.

WALTON, JOSEPH, Liverpool, coal merchant, March 3, April 14: solicitors, Messrs. Vincent and Co., and Mr. Robinson, Liverpool.

#### DIVIDENDS.

Joseph Alfred Hensman, formerly of Copthall-court, bill-broker; first and final div. of 7s. 9d., any Saturday; 18, Aldermanbury—Jonathan William Bellis, first div. of 3s., any Saturday; 18, Aldermanbury—William Henry Hoggarth, first div. of 1s. 6d., any Saturday; 18, Aldermanbury—John Sherring Clark, Angel-court, Throgmorton-street, broker, first div. of 4d., the next three Saturdays; 12, Abchurch-lane—J. Knowles, H. Rodwell, George Russell Parker, and J. Thos. King, Throgmorton-street, silk-brokers, first div. of 1s., and on the separate estate of John Knowles, sec. div. of 7s. 9d., Feb. 25, and two following Wednesdays; 13, Old Jewry—George Hardy, Wisbeach St. Peter's, Cambridgeshire, grocer, first and final div. of 20s., Feb. 25, and two following Wednesdays; 13, Old Jewry—William Duxford, Bishopwearmouth, Durham, ship-builder, sec. and final div., 2d. and one-fifth of a penny in the pound, any Saturday; 57, Grey-street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne—James Oldham, Wood-street, City, silk warehouseman, dividend 6d., any Friday; 1, Sambrook-court, Basinghall-street.

#### SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.

WILKIE, THOMAS, Edinburgh, grocer, Feb. 27, March 19.

#### BRITISH FUNDS.

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 percent. Consols ..	96	96	96	96	95	96
Ottio for Account ..	96	96	97	96	95	96
3 percent Reduced ..	96	96	96	96	96	96
New 3 1/2 percent ..	90	98	98	98	98	98
Long Annuities ..	104	104	—	—	—	104
Bank Stock ..	207	209	—	209	208	209
India Stock ..	260	260	—	259	—	261
Exchequer Bills ..	38pm	38pm	37pm	37pm	—	38pm
India Bonds ..	—	38	—	42	38	—

#### FOREIGN FUNDS.

Belgian ..	98	Mexican ..	31
Brazilian ..	83	Peruvian ..	39
Buenos Ayres ..	404	Portuguese 5 per cents ..	27
Columbian ..	184	Ditto converted ..	60
Danish ..	89	Russian ..	113
Dutch 2 1/2 per cents ..	59	Spanish Active ..	27
Ditto 4 per cents ..	95	Ditto Passive ..	61
French 3 per cents ..	84	Ditto Deferred ..	16

#### RAILWAY SHARES.

Birmingham & Gloucester ..	129	London & Croydon Trunk ..	22
Blackwall ..	81	London and Greenwich ..	10
Bristol and Exeter ..	88	Ditto New ..	—
Eastern Counties ..	22	Manchester and Leeds ..	133
Edinburgh and Glasgow ..	77	Midland Counties ..	151
Grand Junction ..	—	Ditto New Shares ..	28
Great North of England ..	220	Manchester and Birm'g ..	78
Great Western ..	154	Midland and Derby ..	119
Ditto Half ..	85	Norwich and Brandon ..	25
Ditto Fifts ..	33	South Eastern and Dover ..	73
London and Birmingham ..	222	South Western ..	73
London & Birm. 1/2 Shares ..	26	Trent Valley ..	23
London and Brighton ..	63	York and North Midland ..	101

#### MARKETS.

MARK LANE, MONDAY, Feb. 23.

The supply of wheat from Essex, Kent, and Suffolk, was extremely small this morning; fine dry samples were taken readily at

the prices of this day se'night, but others remained unsold late in the day. Old and fine free foreign are much wanted. In bonded, with the exception of best Dantzic, which is sought after by the millers at previous rates, there did not appear to be anything doing. Finest malting barley maintains our quotations; but inferior is difficult to dispose of at 1s. per qr. lower. Beans are fully as dear. The value of peas is unaltered. Oats are a dull sale, at a decline of 6d. to 1s. per qr., excepting fine English corn, which is scarce. The top price of flour is reduced to 53s. per sack.

Wheat, Red ..	49 to 58	Malt, Ordinary ..	48 to 50
Fine ..	56 to 64	Pale ..	52 to 60
White ..	54 to 63	Rye ..	34 to 40
Flour ..	62 to 67	Peas, Hog ..	30 to 32
Flour, per sack ..	— to 57	Maple ..	31 to 33
Barley ..	38 to 45	Boilers ..	36 to 40
Malt ..	30 to 35	Beans, Ticks ..	32 to 34

Beans, Pigeon ..	34 to 38	Wheat ..	17s. 0d.
Harrow ..	32 to 35	Barley ..	7 0
Oats, Feed ..	21 to 23	Oats ..	6 0
Fine ..	23 to 27	Rye ..	8 0
Poland ..	22 to 26	Beans ..	7 6
Potato ..	24 to 26	Peas ..	6 6

WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR FEB. 20.		AGGREGATE AVERAGE OF THE SIX WEEKS.	
Wheat .....	54s. 9d.	Wheat .....	55s. 3d.
Barley .....	30 6	Barley .....	31 4
Oats .....	21 9	Oats .....	21 10
Rye .....	32 7	Rye .....	34 2
Beans .....	34 9	Beans .....	35 11
Peas .....	35 7	Peas .....	36 11

#### SEEDS, MONDAY, Feb. 23.

Red cloverseed was in good demand, and several shillings dearer. White and trefoil in moderate request at former rates. Canaryseed was dull of sale at the late decline. In quotations of other articles no change took place. Prices—Rapeseed, £24 to £26 per last; Linseed (Baltic) 40s. to 44s.; Odessa, 45s. to 47s.; Caraway, 44s. to 50s. per cwt.; Mustard (white), 10s. to 12s.; Linseed cakes (English), £11 10s. to £12 per 1,000; Linseed (English), 54s. to 60s. per quarter.

#### POTATOES, SOUTHWARK, Waterside, Feb. 23.

The supply to this market since this day se'night has been limited; yet, in consequence of the unprecedented mildness of the weather, the trade is very heavy, at the following prices: York Reds, 80s. to 130s.; York Regents, 80s. to 110s. (dull trade); Scotch Reds, 60s. to 80s.; Montrose Buffs and Blues, 70s.; Jersey Blues, 70s.

#### HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, Feb. 23.

There has been a tolerably steady inquiry for the best pockets, and at fully previous rates, though there is not much inquiry for other sorts. The quotations are—Sussex New Pockets, £6 8s. to £7 5s. per cwt.; Weald of Kent ditto, £6 5s. to £7 7s. per cwt.; Mid Kent ditto, £7 7s. to £9 9s. per cwt.; East Kent ditto, £9 9s. to £10 10s. per cwt.; Mid Kent Bags, £7 5s. to £8 3s. per cwt.; East Kent ditto, £8 0s. to £9 9s. per cwt.

#### PROVISIONS, LONDON, Monday, Feb. 23.

We have no material alteration to notice in the butter market since this day se'night. There was a fair amount of business transacted during the week, at our late quotations; the finest descriptions, being scarce, are most in demand. The value of all kinds has been well supported, and the best quality advanced to 12s. per cwt. The bacon market is in a dull and inactive state; the large arrivals make the dealers purchase with caution, and a further decline of 1s. per cwt. was submitted to on landed parcels. Prices ruled from 45s. to 50s. per cwt. Lard at 1s. to 2s. per cwt. decline. In cheese little business has been doing. Prices per cwt.—Double Gloucester, 62s. to 64s.; single ditto, 48s. to 52s.; Cheshire, 56s. to 76s.; Derby, 56s. to 60s.; and American, 50s. to 56s.

#### BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, Feb. 23.

The weather being unfavourable for slaughtering, the beef trade was very dull, at a decline in the quotations of quite 2d. per 8 lbs., the highest figure for the best Scots being 4s. 3d. per 8 lbs. The numbers of sheep were again very small, yet the mutton trade was excessively dull, at barely, but at nothing quotable beneath, last week's prices. Prime small lambs were steady at 7s. per 8 lbs. In calves scarcely any business was transacted, at the late decline in value. The pork trade was firm and the prices were well supported.

Price per stone of 8lbs. (sinking the offal).

Beef ..	2s. 8d. to 4s. 2d.	Veal ..	4s. 0d. to 5s. 0d.
Mutton ..	3 10 to 5 6	Pork ..	3 10 to 5 2

#### HEAD OF CATTLE AT SMITHFIELD.

	Beasts.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
Friday ..	666	1,940	123	275
Monday ..	2,739	15,300	59	204

#### NEWCASTLE AND LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, Feb. 23.

Per 8lbs. by the carcass.			
Inferior Beef 2s. 6d. to 3s. 8d.	Inf. Mutton 3s. 8d. to 3s. 10d.		
Middleling do 2 8 to 3 10	Mid. ditto 4 0 to 4 2		
Prime large 3 0 to 3 2	Prime ditto 4 4 to 4 6		
Prime small 3 4 to 3 6	Veal 4 0 to 5 0		
Large Pork 3 8 to 4 6	Small Pork 4 8 to 5 2		

#### WOOL.

The public auctions of wool commenced on Thursday, at the spacious sale-room of the Hall of Commerce. The total quantity of all sorts expected to be put up is 10,000 bales, and the whole probably will be got through by Saturday next. At present the quotations of the last sales do not appear to have been quite realised; but perhaps an improvement may occur before the close of the series. Leeds, Feb. 20.—Sales of combing and clothing wools this week have not exceeded the quantity required by the manufacturers for immediate use. Prices are stationary.

#### COTTON.

LIVERPOOL, FEB. 20.—The demand this week being limited, and the tightness of money keenly felt by some of the holders, the market for American cotton has been very irregular in price; in some instances as much as 1d. per lb. decline has been submitted to, and the general business has been done at fully 1d. per lb.

#### HAY, SMITHFIELD, Feb. 7.—At per load of 36 trusses.

Meadow ..	65s. to 88s.	Oat Straw ..	31s.
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**ENGRAVING of a LADY under the GALVANIC OPERATION.**—INVALIDS are solicited to send to Mr. HALSE, 5, Pelham-crescent, Brompton, London, for his PAMPHLET on MEDICAL GALVANISM, which will be forwarded free on receipt of two postage stamps. They will be astonished at its contents. In it will be found the particulars of cures in cases of asthma, rheumatism, sciatica, tic douloureux, paralysis, spinal complaints, headaches, deficiency of nervous energy, liver complaints, general debility, indigestion, stiff joints, all sorts of nervous disorders, &c. Mr. Halse's method of applying the galvanic fluid is quite free from all unpleasant sensations; in fact, it is rather pleasurable than otherwise, and many ladies are exceedingly fond of it. It quickly causes the patient to do without medicine. Terms, One Guinea per week.

#### NEW MUSIC FOR PIANOFORTE. THE NEW DANCE MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS.

**THE PIANISTA, No. 63,** contains "The Royal Navy" and Welsh Quadrilles, now playing at the Promenade Concerts. The two sets 1s., charged by Jullien 7s.—No. 62 contains the "Elfin" Waltz, and two new songs, for 1s.—No. 61, Music in "Marble Maiden," 1s.—No. 60, the Mazurka, Polka, and Quadrille in "The Devil to Pay" (Diable à Quatre), now playing at Drury Lane, and all the Theatres, 1s.—No. 59 contains the whole Opera of "Sonnambula," 2s.—No. 57, ditto "Fra Diavolo," 2s.—Or the Nos. from 57 to 62, in splendid binding, as a Christmas or New Year's Present, for 10s., sent carriage free to any part of the Kingdom for a Post Office order for 12s., in favour of the Editor, 67, Paternoster-row.

#### TO FLUTE PLAYERS.

The FLUTONICON, for December No. 1845, price 6d., contains the Music in "Le Diable à Quatre." No. 143 contains the Opera of "Sonnambula;" No. 142, "Fra Diavolo;" No. 97, "Norma." All the numbers contain the gems of an Opera, or equivalent, for 6d. To the Flute player, as recreations after more difficult studies, the Flutonicon is invaluable. The whole numbers in Twelve Vols, for Four Guineas, elegantly bound, or in 145 numbers, at 5d. each.

#### MELODIES FOR ALL INSTRUMENTS.

The MUSICAL BEE is well known in the Musical World as the cheapest and best work issued in London. Every number contains fourteen to twenty melodies for 2d. Numbers 1 to 42 are published. As a specimen, take No. 41, which contains the popular song of "Love Not," "Minuet d'Exaudet," the whole five of Musard's Puritani Quadrilles—Song with words "Dance, Boatman, Dance," and upwards of eight other melodies. The whole for 2d. Complete Sets or Single Numbers may be had at the Pianista, Flutonicon, and Musical Bee Office, 67, Paternoster-row (one door from Cheap-side).

#### THE PIQUA PLANT.—EXTRAORDINARY ECONOMY TO TEA-DRINKERS.

The Piqua Plant is, indeed, an article which claims pre-eminence as a boon for the poor, a delicacy to the rich, a blessing to invalids, and an advantage to the public to the highest degree—unto all and every one. In calling public attention to the Piqua Plant, the proprietor wishes it to be tested solely by its own merits, being assured an unprejudiced trial will establish its worth better than the most laboured eulogy. It is most pleasant and invigorating, and is recommended to the debilitated for its invaluable qualities, to advanced age for its strengthening properties, and to the public generally for its moderate price and intrinsic excellence.

The Test: The proof of the efficacy and healthful effect of the plant in preference to tea or coffee. Let a nervous or dyspeptic patient use two or three cups of strong tea upon retiring to rest, and the effect will be the nightmare, disturbed sleep, and other violent symptoms of indigestion, &c.—The Proof: Let the most debilitated, dyspeptic, asthmatic, consumptive, and nervous patients, use two, three, or more cups of a very strong infusion of the Piqua Plant, and in the morning they will awake refreshed with their repose. It is highly recommended by physicians to invalids and children as a most invigorating and pleasant beverage.

The following are reasons why the Piqua Plant is superior to tea, viz.:—1st. Because it is beneficial to health; 2nd. It does not injure the nerves; 3rd. Children may use it with advantage; 4th. It does not prevent sleep; 5th. A quarter of a pound will go as far as three quarters of the best gunpowder tea; 6th. It is strengthening and nutritious; 7th. It is recommended by physicians, and tea is disapproved of by them. It greatly improves the voice; it is recommended to singers and public speakers.

#### TESTIMONIALS.

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